

Press release

Grain Traders Association of the Hamburg Stock Exchange elects board of directors and looks back on the industry year marked by the pandemic

Hamburg, 23 September 2020. In its Annual General Meeting the Grain Traders Association of the Hamburg Stock Exchange (VdG e.V.) elected their Board for the next two years yesterday. For over 150 years, the VdG e.V. has been the official voice of the international wholesale and foreign trade in grain, oilseeds, feed and pulses at the global trade hub Hamburg. Re-elected Chairman of the Board Thorsten Tiedemann and Secretary General Christof Buchholz looked back on a year that presented challenges to the industry while demonstrating its stability.

"The 2020 harvest turned out to be comparatively small. New regulations such as the Fertilizer Regulation or the agricultural package not only curb productivity in the fields, they also accelerate structural change in agriculture and among companies. This also poses challenges for agricultural trade. Germany also remains a net importer of various cereals and oilseeds," explains Thorsten Tiedemann. Security of supply is therefore an important association issue that the VdG is addressing: "International agricultural trade acts as a hub between production and demand. It plays an essential role in food supply. And in recent months during the Covid 19 pandemic, it became clear that agricultural trade is stable and resilient enough to fulfill this role." Thorsten Tiedemann pointed out that the association is doing all it can to support companies in this regard: "We are committed to ensuring that our members can operate their businesses without disruption and continue with growing success."

Christof Buchholz reported that the association's office was able to continue its work successfully to the full extent during the crisis: "The services of our arbitration court continued to be actively used by market participants, albeit with slight restrictions, as oral negotiations were only possible in compliance with strict hygiene regulations. The technical work in the Food and Feed Safety and Market and Agricultural Policy sections also continued without restriction, as did the representation of our members

in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels. We were able to maintain our partnership contacts with other industry associations at the federal and EU level, through which we jointly leverage synergies, very well via online conferences."

In the election, which takes place every two years, the members of VdG yesterday again elected Thorsten Tiedemann of Getreide AG as chairman of the board. As his three deputies, Jaana Kleinschmit von Lengefeld (ADM Germany GmbH), Jens Kaß (Bioland Markt GmbH & Co. KG) and Steen Houengaard (ABK Agentur für Getreide und Futtermittel GmbH) were re-elected. The office of treasurer continues to be held by Michael Kemperdick (Schlüter & Maack GmbH). In addition, the other members of the full board, the chairmen of the sections and the auditors were elected.



The Annual General Meeting of the Grain Traders Association of the Hamburg Stock Exchange was held at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, where the office is also located. From left to right: Chairman of the Board Thorsten Tiedemann, Secretary General Christof Buchholz, in-house lawyer Alexander Bauer.

Verein der Getreidehändler der Hamburger Börse e.V.

The Verein der Getreidehändler der Hamburger Börse e.V. (VdG) (Grain Traders Association of the Hamburg Stock Exchange) is the federal association of international wholesale and foreign trade in cereals, oilseeds, feeds and pulses and has been the official voice of the industry at the world trading center of Hamburg for over 150 years. It acts as a service provider for its members and also as a partner for administration, politics and business in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels.

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