

Press release

ETSA appoints new Chairman 2014-2017

Brussels, 15 July 2014 – Following the Annual General Meeting of the European Textile Services Association held in Brussels on 25 June 2014, ETSA has confirmed the appointment of Juha Laurio, President & CEO of the [Lindström Group](#), as the new Chairman of ETSA for period of three years.

Mr. Laurio takes over the role from Christina Ritzer, owner of Bardusch GmbH. To assist the new Chairman, Mr. Thomas Krautschneider, CEO and President of SALESIANER MIETTEX GmbH, has been appointed as the Treasurer for the same period. In principle, the new Treasurer will take over as Chairman at the end of this mandate. The ETSA Board would like to thank Ms. Ritzer for her excellent work as Chairman of the association since 2011, and welcome the new Chair and Treasurer.

Biography



Mr. Laurio was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Lindström Group in March 2008. He joined the Lindström Group in March 2006 as Executive Vice President, COO. Mr. Laurio has extensive experience in international business. Prior to joining the Lindström Group, he held several positions at Perlos Group in Finland and in the USA from 2000 to 2005. His last position at Perlos Group was President of the Americas Region. Prior to Perlos Group he was a Development Engineer for research and development of diesel and gas engines at Wärtsilä NSD Corporation.

Mr. Laurio holds a Master of Science degree in Technology, Mechanical Engineering from Helsinki University of Technology.

“It is a pleasure taking over the role of Chairman of ETSA, representing an industry that provides sustainable services to its customers. There is increasing demand for outsourcing, as companies seek more efficiency and focus on their core business. Professional service providers know the regulations and standards that govern the industry. We can guarantee that our customers meet all the requirements concerning, for example, hygiene and safety issues.”

“As Chairman of ETSA, I will ensure that the industry continues to communicate the benefits of textile services, enabling our customers to outsource their textile care and benefit from our expertise. ETSA’s role is to ensure that textile service industry and its regulations continue to serve the needs of our customers and society,” says Juha Laurio, President & CEO of Lindström Group and new Chairman of ETSA.

ETSA Board

The current ETSA Board of Directors is made up of the following member companies:

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| • Alsco Berufskleidungs-Service GmbH | represented by Martin Swierzy |
| • Bardusch GmbH | represented by Christina Ritzer |
| • Berendsen plc | represented by Peter Havéus |
| • Bierbaum-Proenen GmbH & Co. KG | represented by Harald Goost |

- CWS-boco International GmbH represented by Maximilian Teichner
- Elis SA represented by Xavier Martiré
- Indusal represented by Christian Erburu
- Johnson Service Group plc represented by Chris Sander
- Lapauw International NV represented by Philippe D'heygere
- Lindström Oy represented by Juha Laurio
- Mewa Textil-Service AG & Co. represented by Jürgen Gerdum
- Rentokil Initial plc represented by Olivier Picard
- SALESIANER MIETTEX GmbH represented by Thomas Krautschneider

About ETSA

For 20 years, ETSA has represented and promoted the interests of the textile service industry in Europe. Today, ETSA is the platform for networking and sharing of best practices for its 34 members: leading textile rental and supplier firms, national associations and research institutes. Textile services provide a sustainable, cost effective alternative to disposable textiles, ownership of textiles and washing at home.

The textile services industry is a major contributor to the European economy, with a current annual turnover of circa €11 billion (2012) and employing 135 000 people in the EU. The textile services market has grown in almost every segment and product type in recent years, despite the negative economic climate. According to a recent Deloitte market study, the textile services industry in Europe could grow up to €46 billion turnover.

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