

EURACOAL – Press Release 2/2007

European Association for Coal and Lignite elects new President

Maksymilian Klank succeeds Nigel Yaxley / New Vice President from the Czech Republic

Brussels – The European Association for Coal and Lignite – EURACOAL - elected Dr. Maksymilian Klank as its new President. Klank succeeds Nigel Yaxley, from the UK, who held the post since beginning of 2005. With Klank, a representative of the largest coal-producing country in the EU is now at the helm of the European lobby.

Klank joined the Polish coal mining industry more than 25 years ago. After studying economics in Katowice and obtaining a PhD at the High School for Mining and Metallurgy in Krakow, Klank began his career as Head of the Finance Department of a Polish coal mining company. In 1993 he also became head of the Finance Department of the Katowice Coal Holding. In 2001 he was appointed Chairman of the Board. From 2003 to 2006 he was Chairman of the Board of Kompania Weglowa, with a yearly production of approximately 50 Million tonnes, the largest hard coal producer in Europe. Klank is also President of the Polish Hard Coal Association and Member of the Polish Academy of Science.

EURACOAL's new Vice President is Petr Pudil. He worked in various industrial sectors before joining the Mostecká uhelná mining company (MUS), the second largest brown coal company in the Czech Republic, in 1988 and later becoming the Deputy Chairman of the Board of its owner, the Appian Group. After a management buy-out in 2005 he became Chairman of the Board of Directors of the newly-created Czech Coal and is responsible for its daughter-company MUS. The Czech Coal Group includes coal production, trade and also heat and electricity generation. Pudil is on the Board of the Confederation of Czech Industry.

On being elected, Klank and Pudil thanked their predecessors. They announced their commitment to follow the new energy and environmental thrust of the Union and in particular to bring the experience and concerns of two major coal-producing countries to the European scene.