



PRESS RELEASE

HANS E. KOCH RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EHMA



From left to right Hans E. Koch, Verena Forstinger and Albert Rowendal

Hans E. Koch has already held this position for three years, from 2013 to 2015. He is at present National Delegate of the Swiss Chapter and CEO of KKL Luzern Management AG (Culture and Congress Center) in Lucerne, after a vast experience in Switzerland and in Asia, where he has managed prestigious and complex properties of large dimensions.

Hans E. Koch will remain President for the next term of office from 2016 to 2018. The election took place on the occasion of EHMA 43rd General Meeting in Cyprus. He will preside over a new Executive Committee composed by Verena Forstinger First Vice President, Albert Rowendal Vice President and Johanna Fragano Treasurer.

After terminating his studies in hotel management, Hans E. Koch started his career in Switzerland but he soon moved to Asia first at the Hilton and then at the Peninsula in Hong Kong. In 1983 he moved to Tokyo for the opening of the Hilton Hotel in the position of Food & Beverage Manager, and was quickly promoted Executive Assistant Manager at the Hilton Tokyo Bay, opened in 1988 next to Tokyo Disneyland. After a short break in 1991 as General Manager ad interim of the Zurich Hilton, Koch goes back to Asia as **General Manager of the Shanghai Hilton**, luxury property of 775 rooms with six restaurants, two bars and vast banqueting and meeting areas, winner of the Hilton International Award "Hotel of the Year 1993". From 1995 to 1998 Koch becomes **General Manager of the Osaka Hilton**, where he successfully carries out important innovations. In 1999

his career continues to rise in India as **Vice President & General Manager of Sheraton Mumbai** of the Group ITC Hotels/Welcomgroup-India.

In 2001 Koch returns to Switzerland in order to manage the **Grand Resort Bad Ragaz – Health, Spa & Golf**, the only resort in Switzerland that offers the unique combination of two luxury hotels, its own thermal water, an 18-hole golf course, a medical health center and vast public and private wellness facilities. From 2004 to 2007 Koch is in Mauritius as **General Manager of Taj Exotica Resort & Spa**, winner of numerous international awards.

In 2007 Koch goes back to Switzerland as General Manager of the **Palace Lucerne**, prestigious 5-star boutique hotel with a Spa and three restaurants, one of which has a Michelin star. For the last five years Koch has been **CEO of the KKL Luzern Management AG (Culture and Congress Centre)**, magnificent contemporary property designed by Jean Nouvel that comprises concert halls, bars, restaurants and congress areas.

EHMA in brief

EHMA was founded in Rome in 1974 by a small group of top quality hotel properties general managers of the Italian capital. The European Hotel Managers Association aims to improve qualification of professionals through training in view of increasing the standards of services to be provided to guests.

At present the Association gathers about 419 general managers of the most prestigious hotels in 29 countries that make a total of 350 represented hotels, 92,000 rooms, and 72,000 employees. Members meet once a year to discuss about shared themes such as: new technologies, trends, issues, relations, European hotel data and market search. EHMA admission requires a minimum of ten years' experience in the hotel sector.

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