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**European power transmission industry prepared to survive
the crisis –
Georges Roobaert elected for second period as EUROTRANS
president**

Frankfurt, 30th June 2009; The European power transmission engineering industry met from 11th – 12th June 2009 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Great Britain, for their annual meeting at the invitation of the British Gear Association BGA. Georges Roobaert, Hansen Transmission, was elected for his second period as EUROTRANS president. Theo Maas , Flender AG, was elected as Vice President.

2008 was the most successful year in the history of European power transmission industry. The European production industry (without bearings) grew by 10 % to more than 15 billion Euro in 2008. One of the main driving forces of this growth was again the renewable energy market. The main topic of the meeting was the drastic drop of order intake caused by the economic and financial crisis. It still is difficult for our customers to find reasonable credits for their projects. Based on some early signs an improvement of orders and production could be expected in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

Georges Roobaert says “2009 is expected to be a hard year with a drop between 20 – 40 % in our business. Cash flow management and cost control to bridge this period is vital, but it is also important that companies further invest in research & development and improve their processes in order to come out of this crisis stronger and more competitive. In view of the ageing problem and the shortage of skilled technical employees our companies should, despite the crisis, develop a well-considered retainment policy.”

Furthermore it was decided during the meeting that EUROTRANS will prepare a position paper concerning “Machinery Directive” to help the members in this matter.

In order to stimulate the export of products to Asian countries, Eurotrans will send a letter to José Manuel Barroso, EU Commissioner, to support the Free Trade Agreement with South Korea.

Frankfurt, 30th June 2009

General Secretariat of EUROTRANS

EUROTRANS: European Committee of Associations of Manufacturers of Gears and Transmission Parts

Within the EU the member associations representing the interests of more than 600 enterprises with a collective annual production of more than 15 billion EURO (without bearings industry and the automotive business). Within Europe at least 160.000 people are employed by our sector.