

PRESS RELEASE

Seize chances

2016 was a positive year for the economic sectors represented by FEDIL. In a turbulent international context, it was a rich moment of developments: the recent tax reform was certainly not the last word of the government in the face of international developments; investment project holders will continue to be interested in our country.

Despite efforts to reduce tax competition between states, taxation will remain a decisive argument, but other factors should not be underestimated either. It is up to all of us to be agile and to demonstrate an impeccable reception and follow-up capacity to convince prospects and carry out their projects. We are thinking in particular of the importance of rapid administrative processing of authorization files, rapid access to infrastructure, availability of skilled labor, last but not least, competitiveness and the quantity of energy supplies.

In addition to developments in the reorganization of working time - most likely a missed opportunity - and major investment projects and tax evolutions, 2016 was marked by the Rifkin process in which we are actively involved for our member companies.

Digitization is a major challenge for our members: the third industrial revolution, reflections on the work of tomorrow, technological breakthroughs starting to transform entire sectors of activity or the political or legislative projects on circulation and data protection testify to the fact that digitization is at the very heart of all economic problems. For our industries there are real advantages and FEDIL wants to continue to accompany them in this direction. To this end, the creation of the D4I - Digital for Industry initiative, now being carried out jointly with the Ministry of the Economy, is an important step towards a favorable future for industry.



FEDIL

The Voice of Luxembourg's Industry

But 2016 was also a moment of self-critical repositioning for a nearly 100-year-old structure. In January 2017 we converted from Fedil - Business Federation Luxembourg to FEDIL - The Voice of Luxembourg's Industry. We have presented to you a positioning that aims not only to better serve our members and to establish a more constructive dialogue with decision-makers and partners, but also to avoid overlooking the general public.

With this in mind, we are dedicated to several projects:

Knowing the shortage of skilled labor, it is notably around digitization and the many possibilities it opens up in industry that FEDIL first concentrated efforts to communicate with youth through the industry promotion project HelloFuture (www.hellofuture.lu). The search and support of young talent is at the very top of our efforts and we will continue to encourage our companies to open their doors to youth.

However, we believe that there is a real need for information in relation to the diversity of all our industrial sectors and we see this as our next project. There is a case to be made to improve the image of industry not only as an employer but also as a contributing factor in the advancement of our country. That is why we decided to place the second half of 2017 - while preparing our centenary in 2018 - for actions that present all our sectors.

- *Marie-Christine Ayed (Vice President Research, innovation & environment, Tarkett GDL S.A.);*
- *Jean-Marc Kieffer (chairman of the Board of CDCL S.A.)*
- *Romain Hansen (Director Global Technology Programs, Goodyear S.A.)*

join the FEDIL Board of Directors. They are replacing Christian Thiry - who was on the Board of FEDIL for 21 years - and François Delé, whom FEDIL would like to thank for their commitment to industry.

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