

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Hans-Eberhard Koch dies unexpectedly at the age of 67

Management executive with vision and great social commitment

For almost thirty years, Dr. Hans-Eberhard Koch stood at the helm of the company Witzenmann and was instrumental in creating an international corporate group of lasting success.

Koch was born on 5 July 1949 in Siegerland, Germany. Following an apprenticeship as an industrial clerk, he studied Economics at the University of Siegen. In 1981 he was awarded the title Dr. rer. pol. and worked as an academic assistant and in an advisory capacity in the field of industry. In 1984 he became head of the department Public Relation and Organisation at Witzenmann GmbH.

He was appointed Managing Director at Witzenmann GmbH in 1989 and took the position of Chairman of the Management Board in 2003. He was a partner in Witzenmann GmbH from 1996. With a clear focus on the future, Koch played a decisive role in Witzenmann's strategic orientation and he promoted the establishment of an international corporate group. He developed the Witzenmann Group to be a series supplier and recognized partner for the automobile industry worldwide.

Within the corporate group, he supported the philosophy of networking and cooperation across all country boundaries and hierarchy levels. He directed his ideas and actions always with a view to the possibilities and the challenges worldwide whilst maintaining a clear vision of the conditions required for a healthy economic development of Germany as an industrial location.

Since 2001 Koch was President of the Federation of Industry of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg (LVI) and was a permanent guest in the Presidential Board of the Federation of German Industries (BDI). He was Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Black Forest and held many honorary posts in associations, chambers, advisory and supervisory boards. In 2007 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr. Hans-Eberhard Koch leaves behind his wife and three adult children with their families.

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