

# **EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF NEWS AGENCIES**

SECRETARIAT

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF NEWS AGENCIES CELEBRATES 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT**

Geneva September 22, 2006

The European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA) has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a forum for cooperation between European news agencies. The celebrations were held in Geneva in connection with a seminar on “Media Trends and News Agency Business” and the association’s annual General Assembly.

At the celebrations British telecom BT’s Chief Executive, Mr Ben Verwaayen, talked about the rapid development of the media environment. Dr Walter Richtberg, former Chief Executive of German news agency dpa and a veteran member of EANA, gave a brief review of EANA’s history.

The first EANA Award for Excellence in News Agency Quality was awarded to Mr Meinolf Ellers, Managing Director of dpa-infocom in Hamburg, a subsidiary of German news agency dpa. Mr Ellers got the prize in his capacity as coordinator of the MINDS project (Mobile Information and News Data Services), a European project on mobile media services developed by dpa-infocom, Dutch news agency ANP, Austrian news agency APA, Hungarian news agency MTI and Swiss news agency SDA/ATS.

At the assembly Dr Wolfgang Vyslozil, Chief Executive of Austrian news agency APA was elected President for two years succeeding Mr Paul Tesselaar, Managing Director of Dutch news agency ANP who was stepping down after his two year term.

Mr Pål Bjerketvedt, Editor-in-Chief and Managing Director of Norwegian news agency NTB and Mr Mátyás Vince, President of Hungarian news agency MTI were elected new Bureau (board) members for three years. The other two Bureau members are Mr Steven Brown, Managing Director of Press Association, London and Mr Erik Nylén, Stockholm, secretary and re-elected at the assembly.

EANA is registered in Switzerland as a non-profit membership association and has 30 member agencies. Its operations are financed via membership fees.

Major objectives for EANA are:

- to secure a business environment where news agencies can fulfil the task of independent and unbiased news reporting. This includes recognition of copyright and related rights for news agencies and access to sources of information.
- to promote co-operation and information exchange between member agencies.
- to offer member agencies a Pan-European professional forum for discussions and exchange of experiences and know-how by organizing seminars, workshops etc.

The 30 member agencies are:

AA - Turkey  
AFP – France  
ANA - Greece  
ATA - Albania  
ANP – The Netherlands  
ANSA – Italy  
APA – Austria  
ATS/SDA - Switzerland  
BNS – Estonia  
BTA – Bulgaria  
BELGA – Belgium  
CNA – Cyprus  
CTK – Czech Republic  
DPA – Germany  
EFE – Spain  
HINA – Croatia  
ITAR-TASS – Russia  
LUSA - Portugal  
MTI – Hungary  
NTB – Norway  
PA – The UK  
PAP – Poland  
RITZAU – Denmark  
ROMPRES – Romania  
STA – Slovenia  
STT/FNB – Finland  
TANJUG – Serbia  
TASR – Slovakia  
TT – Sweden  
UKRINFORM – Ukraine

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