

Press release

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Page 1 / 1

Dräger Establishes European Employee Organization

Lübeck, Germany – Dräger has founded a European employee organization, the Dräger European Forum (DEF). This body, which met for the first time in Lübeck on the 11th of May, 2009, now represents the interests of Dräger employees at the international level.

Nine employees from seven European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom) represent the interests of around 6,000 medical and safety division employees. In their first meeting, the Forum members elected a chairman and a three-member executive committee to a four-year term of office.

The DEF will pursue the traditional objectives of an employee organization: "We intend to provide Dräger employees throughout Europe with information about topics that affect them in their day-to-day work. Access to information and consultation in matters affecting the company are central rights of a European employee organization," explained Dr. Jens-Uwe Hagenah, the new DEF chairman.

The DEF differs from the national body in one significant point: the new organization will focus exclusively on issues affecting at least two Dräger subsidiaries in different European countries. These include the company's business situation, changes affecting work organization and structure, investments and the employment situation. Topics affecting individual countries only will remain within the purview of the national employee organizations. The specific rights and obligations of the DEF are governed by an internal agreement.

In keeping with the objectives of the European employee organization, Executive Board Chairman Stefan Dräger immediately gave the DEF members an initial briefing on the company's current situation. Only one day after the Forum was established, the employee representatives were given a first-hand insight into Dräger's business situation and were informed that decisive action will be required to secure the company's future. Such measures will also affect Dräger organizations in other European countries.

Contact

Corporate Communications:
Burkard Dillig
Tel. +49 451 882-2185
burkard.dillig@draeger.com

Investor Relations:
Vanina Herbst
Tel. +49 451 882-2685
vanina.herbst@draeger.com

Drägerwerk AG & Co. KGaA
Moislinger Allee 53–55
23542 Lübeck, Germany
www.draeger.com