



European association for Surface Treatment on Aluminium

Michiel Koot is ESTAL new Director

In order to bring more dynamism into the European association and better prepare ESTAL's members to the challenges of the future. Michiel Koot has joined the European association for Surface Treatment on Aluminium as the new Director at the end of 2013.

A Dutch citizen, Mr. Koot has worked as the General Manager of an aluminium anodizing company in the Netherlands and has more than 30 years of industry experience.

Prior to his appointment as ESTAL director, Michiel Koot was the president of the Dutch Anodizing Association and a member of the Board of the Dutch Aluminium Association. As a member of the ESTAL Executive Committee and representative of the Dutch association for surface treatments on materials (VOM), M. Koot has also served ESTAL as Vice-president for several years.

ESTAL's mission is to promote and protect the interests of aluminium surface finishers in various European countries; the association deals with important issues such as environmental changes, challenges linked with the energy debate or chemicals registration, et., which all have an impact on the daily work of surface finishers in Europe. In this task, M. Koot can rely on the work of Mr. Simon Meirsschaut, the ESTAL Technical Coordinator who monitors the developments in Brussels and conducts for ESTAL the lobbying activities which need to be undertaken at European level in order to protect the surface treatment industry.

Commenting on his new role, Michiel Koot intends to enlarge ESTAL network by having more regular contacts with other associations and organisations linked with surface treatment in general, and in cooperating more closely with the surface treatment suppliers who have the possibility to become sustaining members of ESTAL.

M. Koot insists that surface treatment (anodizing or coating) is not only a corrosion protection for aluminium, but also gives aluminium a decorative aspect; consequently aluminium surface treatment should be considered as an added value. M. Koot sees much more possibilities for the aluminium surface treatment industry whereby aluminium as a material offers many advantages, such as a wide choice of alloys, design flexibility, strength and durability as well as energy performance. Therefore, M. Koot intends to intensify ESTAL's co-operation with the aluminium industry (EAA). In addition, he wishes to have a close cooperation with important international universities in order to develop new surface treatments.

M. Koot hopes that sooner or later aluminium surface treatment will no longer be considered as a necessary feature of the aluminium supply chain, but as an essential part of the product, this starting with the product design and ending with the recycling opportunities which generate an additional financial value.

Having been involved in the ESTAL association for many years, as a member of the national association on one side, or as a Committee member at European level on the other, Michiel Koot emphasizes that, as an aluminium finisher, he has greatly benefited from the contacts he has made during the ESTAL congresses and from the information exchanged with colleagues from other countries over the years. As a director M. Koot wants to promote the networking in the association and offer the members more opportunities for exchange of experience.

For additional information, please contact the ESTAL Secretariat, M. Kalmar, Tödistr. 47, 8027 Zürich, m.kalmar@actreu.ch



Michiel Koot

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