

PRESS RELEASE

New Managing Director at wiiw

Economist Dr. Mario Holzner takes over the management of the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw).

After a tender process lasting several months, the wiiw Board of Directors appointed Dr. Mario Holzner as Managing Director of the Institute in January. wiiw President, **MEP ret. Dr. Hannes Swoboda**, thanked the outgoing Managing Director, Dr. Elisabeth Hagen, for her many years of work: *'Lili Hagen has ensured sustainable financing, above all through her special commitment, and thus made a significant contribution to the independence of the Institute.'* Mr. Swoboda wishes the new Managing Director all the best in this future position: *'If wiiw is one of the world's leading think tanks in the field of international economics today, it is thanks to all of the staff, but in particular also to the work of Mario Holzner.'*

From the beginning of April, Mario Holzner takes over the role of wiiw Managing Director from **Dr. Elisabeth Hagen**, who has managed the Institute's business since 2006. During this time, the wiiw was able to develop robustly and increase both the Institute's income and its staff. Ms. Hagen hands over a solid house. Only recently, wiiw was able to maintain its excellent fourth place in the ranking of the world's best think tanks in the International Economic Policy category of the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Report 2018. According to the outgoing Managing Director, wiiw can look back on a 45-year history as *the* economic think tank for Central, East and South Europe. She expresses her thanks to the staff of wiiw, because *'they are the ones who are primarily responsible for the Institute's success'*. She also thanks the Institute's stakeholders and customers for their interest and support. *'I am sure that the new management will provide fresh impetus and will lead wiiw into a successful future'*, said Ms. Hagen.

Dr. Mario Holzner was previously Deputy Director of wiiw; his research areas included macroeconomics, international trade, income distribution and infrastructure. His regional focus was on the Western Balkans. For many years he was head of the Global Development Network Southeast Europe. He also coordinated the Institute's economic forecasts for more than twenty countries in Central, East and Southeast Europe. His vision as the new Managing Director is *'to maintain wiiw as a European leading institute with the EU view of the East and to establish the Institute as a pioneer in the digitisation of economic research'*. Mr. Holzner has been associated with wiiw since 2000. At that time he supported consulting projects in Southeast Europe as a project assistant. As a member, and later chairman, of the works council, he represented the interests of the staff and contributed to the organisational design of wiiw. Mario Holzner studied economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and has been teaching applied econometrics at the Institute of Economics, University of Vienna, since 2009.

The new Managing Director will steer the Institute's operations together with wiiw's Scientific Director, **Dr. Robert Stehrer**. His research focuses on international and European integration, trade, technology, labour markets and applied econometrics. He works on a variety of projects, including for the European Commission. Mr. Stehrer is looking forward to future cooperation: *'Together with our colleagues at the Institute, we are committed to continuing top-quality applied economic research, which serves as the basis for independent and evidence-based economic policy.'*

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For any questions, please contact:

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