

## Press Release

Geneva, 2 December 2019

***Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA): STSA looks back on a successful year and bids farewell to its Secretary General, Dr Stéphane Graber.***

On Thursday, 28 November 2019, the Swiss Trading and Shipping Association ('STSA') held its Annual General Meeting for 2018-2019 at Palais de l'Athénée, Geneva. This year, the focus of the meeting was not merely on a review of the Association's accomplishments of the preceding twelve months, but rather, on the imminent departure of its Secretary General, Dr Stéphane Graber. As the new Director General of FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, Dr Graber will manage the activities of the largest non-governmental organisation in the transport sector.

Seven years ago, Dr Graber was appointed as Secretary General of STSA. Since then, STSA has grown exponentially from its roots as the regionally-focused Geneva Trading and Shipping Association counting 83 regional members, to become a major professional association recognised for its expertise on the Swiss political landscape. Today, STSA is the national association for commodity trading and shipping representing over 180 member companies, with three local chapters in Lugano, Zug and Zürich, and offices in Bern and Geneva.

Under the management of Dr Graber, STSA has developed a proactive and pragmatic approach within its mission, increasing understanding of the activity and engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders. Key achievements include its involvement in a multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop the Guidance on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Commodity Trading, as well as the continued development of STSA's education and training programmes. Increasingly gaining international ground, these programmes facilitate the promotion of the local talent pool and strengthen Switzerland as an economic centre of excellence. Since 2019, they have been running under the STSA Learning brand name and are certified under the recognised eduQua quality label.

STSA President Ramon Esteve thanks Dr Graber for the past seven successful years: *"Stéphane Graber has done extraordinary work for the Association and for the entire activity. We very much regret his departure, but we completely understand his decision. We wish him great fulfilment and every success at FIATA"*.

Dr Graber leaves behind an association that is today fit-for-purpose to face evolving challenges and to actively shape the future of the commodity trading and shipping activity in Switzerland. STSA congratulates him on his new position, and wishes him the very best in his new function.

From the beginning of 2020, Ms Florence Schürch will take the position as the new Secretary General of STSA.

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The Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA) is the national association representing the commodity trading and shipping activity across Switzerland. In addition to its Geneva headquarters, it is comprised of 3 regional chapters in Lugano, Zug and Zurich, and offices in Bern. STSA's mission is to provide a neutral platform of exchange to all companies active in commodity trading to support their activities, defend their interests, and improve the understanding of the activity amongst the public at large.

STSA counts amongst its members over 181 companies across Switzerland active in commodity trading, shipping, inspection and certification, trade finance, and other associated services. This economic activity is one of the most important in the country, representing 3.8% of Swiss GDP and employing around 35,000 professionals in Switzerland.