



Essilor creates a new Board Committee: the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee

**Louise Fréchette chairs this new committee,
which is an addition to Essilor's governance**

(Charenton le Pont, France - 7 May, 2013) - **Essilor International announces the creation of a new board committee to oversee the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy. This will involve guiding the group's long term development through its CSR initiatives concerning sight and its improvement. This new committee, chaired by Louise Fréchette is made up of Aicha Mokdahi, Bernard Hours and Hubert Sagnières.**

Today, Essilor's corporate initiatives, as well as those of its employees and partners in CSR worldwide, have reached a significant level. In parallel to the company's rapid growth, a number of socially supportive activities have been accelerated in line with Essilor's corporate mission to improve sight, helping as many people as possible to see better in order to live better, in a sustainable manner.

"This innovative committee, chaired by an independent Director, will allow us to go a step further in addressing economic and social challenges associated with our mission. The geographic scope of the company and the diversity of our CSR initiatives called for the creation of a governance body for orienting and overseeing the Group's social project, within the Board of Directors", declared Hubert Sagnières, Essilor's Chairman and CEO.

The high level of engagement in CSR activities by Essilor, its employees and its partners is fueled by the challenges posed by uncorrected vision throughout the world: Out of a total population of nearly 7 billion people, about 4.2 billion people need vision correction. However 2.5 billion do not have access to such correction, for geographic or economic reasons.

Essilor International's CSR activities today feature various initiatives whose common goal is to reach out to those who would otherwise have no access to eye care, by offering free vision defect screening sessions, as well as free lenses to the most underprivileged in society. Since 2006, for example, the Essilor Vision Foundation has been offering vision tests and spectacles to school children in the USA and other countries. The Group is also a partner of the international Special Olympics organization and is a founder member of the Optique Solidaire association in France. Last March, Essilor supported the launch of the Vision Impact Institute, whose role is to raise awareness about the socio-economic consequences of poor vision in the world by sharing all relevant data.

Committed to rolling out its CSR policy, the Group also announced the appointment of Jayanth Bhuvanaraghavan last April to the newly created Executive Committee position of Chief Corporate Mission Officer, who will be in charge of managing the CSR initiatives.

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About Essilor

The world's leading ophthalmic optics company, Essilor designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of lenses to improve and protect eyesight. Its corporate mission is to enable everyone around the world to access lenses that meet his or her unique vision requirements. To support this mission, the Company allocates more than €150 million to research and innovation every year, in a commitment to continuously bring new, more effective products to market. Essilor's flagship brands are Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Definity[®], Xperio[®], Optifog[™] and Foster Grant[®]. It also develops and markets equipment, instruments and services for eyecare professionals.

Essilor reported consolidated revenue of approximately €5 billion in 2012 and employs around 50 700 people in some 100 countries. It operates 22 plants, more than 400 prescription laboratories and edging facilities, as well as several research and development centers around the world.

For more information, please visit www.essilor.com.

The Essilor share trades on the NYSE Euronext Paris market and is included in the EuroStoxx 50 and CAC 40 indices.

Codes and symbols: ISIN: FR FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP.