

EXECUTIVE BOARD STATEMENT

DEAR SIR, DEAR MADAM,

"This is a very good example of sustainability in action!" was the jury's comment on presenting the German Packaging Award in the category of sustainability to Bischof + Klein in 2019. This was in reference to our B+K Twister Plus® wicketed bag with 30 % PCR (post-consumer recyclate). Sustainability with particular focus on the circular economy was the major topic within our industry last year. The jury's verdict and our customers' high demand for our recyclable packaging solutions with recyclate content are encouraging us to remain on our chosen course: "Living sustainability!"

This is a matter of tradition at our family-owned, international company group, which is now in the hands of the fifth generation. All of the divisions operate according to this motto on the basis of the three pillars of economy, ecology and social affairs. Sustainability is the driving force behind Bischof + Klein's dynamic and successful corporate development. Compliance with internationally recognised standards such as EMAS as an environmental management instrument, for instance, or SMETA as an international audit format in the field of ethics also contributes extensively to this.

Time and again, we ask ourselves the critical question: are we still on course? The 2019 sustainability report contains detailed answers to this question – in the form of manifold details concerning the status of sustainability at B+K.

Important issues at the moment include the use of post-consumer recyclate and renewable raw materials as well as the general recyclability of our products. These are the central contents of discussions with customers. Development in these areas is being driven forwards by the discussion surrounding marine litter and the strategic use of plastic. With our product development, through the provision of information and with association work, we remain committed to moving towards a genuine circular economy and active product responsibility.

INVESTMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS

We are continuing to pursue our corporate goals methodically and with commitment. We want to become the most highly regarded and innovative company for product protection worldwide. The new excellence department and the strategic realignment of the sales, innovation and IT departments are driving this development forwards. We are bundling the creative energy and know-how of our engineers, data analysts and business excellence in the new innovation centre. At the same time, the ExcellenceHUB and InnoLAB are the meeting point for innovative suppliers and customers that want to launch future projects with us.

The FIT 20+ programme is forging ahead. We are continuing to work towards standardising our processes so that we can digitalise them. Industry 4.0 is an important keyword. Supply chain management and the product development process are two examples. The employees can directly follow and help structure this development progress using new communication channels such as the employee app and information screens in the production department.

We want to continue to strengthen our outstanding position amongst the international competition. This is why we are investing in modernising our machinery and infrastructure. In 2019, this investment amounted to around 42 million euros within the B+K-GROUP, with 30 million euros being invested in Germany.

Many long-term employees as well as a few new recruits are making Bischof + Klein fit for a successful future. Since June 2020, Erik Edelmann has completed the executive board as the company's CSO (Chief Sales Officer). Accessing new strategic markets is on his agenda, as is driving forwards the development of sustainable product protection.

We are responding to the increasing need for skilled workers by developing and qualifying specialists and managers. This also forms part of the preparations for our planned, continued growth. We are laying the foundations for this by carefully selecting and training young professionals. The numerous awards won by our trainees show how successful our commitment in this central area is.

With the objective of driving Bischof + Klein forwards as a leading product protection company, we are constantly taking new approaches to ensure a future in which ecology, economy and social affairs go hand-in-hand.



Karsten Pax

Dr. Tobias Lührig

Manfred Albrecht

Erik Edelmann