

Press release

Mannheim, 13 September 2023

Südzucker executive board member Thomas Kölbl retires as of June 2024

Succession process initiated by the supervisory board

Thomas Kölbl (61) has informed the supervisory board today, that he will not renew his executive board contract, which expires on 31 May 2024.

"After almost 34 years at Südzucker, including almost 20 years as a member of the executive board, we respect Mr. Kölbl's decision with great regret. We are grateful for his many years of dedicated and trustful service. With his excellent judgment and farsightedness, he has certainly led the company through very difficult phases. Südzucker owes a great deal of progress to him, whereby – in addition to the prospects for the people in the company – stability and risk-bearing capacity were always his top priorities," said Dr. Stefan Streng, chairman of Südzucker AG's supervisory board. "We will use the coming months to arrange the succession."

"In the executive board team, we value Thomas Kölbl not only because of his enormous experience and high professional qualifications, but also because of his human and extremely collegial manner," adds Dr. Niels Pörksen, CEO of Südzucker AG.

In a personal message to employees, Kölbl himself said: "I work for 'our' Südzucker with great pleasure and commitment. Having reached the age of 61, I have come to the firm conclusion that it is a good time for our company in the current environment, as well as for me and my family, to pass the baton in the financial area into younger hands."

After holding various positions at Südzucker AG, Kölbl has been a member of the executive board since June 2004. Today, he is responsible for controlling, finance, investor relations, legal affairs, purchasing, real estate, insurance and taxes.

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About the Südzucker Group

Südzucker is a major player in the food industry with its sugar, special products, starch and fruit segments, and Europe's leading ethanol producer with its CropEnergies segment.

In the traditional sugar business, the group is Europe's number one supplier of sugar products, with 23 sugar factories and two refineries, extending from France in the west via Belgium, Germany and Austria, through to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia, and Moldova in the east. The special products segment, with its consumer-oriented functional ingredients for food and animal feed (BENEIO), chilled/frozen products (Freiberger) and portion packs (PortionPack Group), operates in dynamic growth markets. Südzucker's CropEnergies segment is Europe's leading producer of renewable ethanol, with production sites in Germany, Belgium, France and Great Britain. Other products in this segment are protein food and animal feed products as well as biogenic carbon dioxide. The starch segment comprises AGRANA's starch and ethanol activities. The group's fruit segment operates globally, is the world market leader for fruit preparations and is a leading supplier of fruit juice concentrates in Europe.

In 2022/23, the group employed about 18.300 persons and generated revenues of about EUR 9.5 billion.