

Press Release: Marc Bontemps new director of Ethibel

Brussels, 17 June 2004

Ethibel, the advisory and research organisation for ethical investment funds, has a new director: Marc Bontemps. In August 2004, he will succeed Bert Van Thienen.

Ethibel is known for its European Quality Label (carried by 19 investment funds that are managed among others by Bank Delen, Dexia, Etica SGR, Mercator Bank, Petercam en Van Moer Santerre). Furthermore, Ethibel is known for its index – the Ethibel Sustainability Index- and it also certifies the (re)investment of other socially profiled products like Epargne Cygale/Krekelsparen (Fortis).

Commercial Engineer Marc Bontemps (50) started his career in the audit department of PricewaterhouseCoopers and was an assistant to Professor Missorten (Brussels University) before stepping into development cooperation work. Under his leadership Oxfam-Wereldwinkels and the Oxfam-Fairtrade brand were positioned as fair-trade market leaders.

As Board Member of the FLO (the international Fairtrade Labelling Organizations, who was awarded last year's King Baudouin award for developmental work) he was closely involved in the standard setting and certification work of this label.

Growing interest in 'Socially Responsible Investments'

'In a world of growing interest in Socially Responsible Investments, Ethibel creates a bridge between the business and the financial world, the NGO-sector and the general public', says Marc Bontemps. He wants to strengthen Ethibel's position as an international independent research centre with high ethical standards and a quality label that deserves full confidence from investors and investment fund managers'.

Marc Bontemps underlines that in the Ethibel approach companies are not only screened on a wide range of criteria, but that also a dialogue is organised on how they put into practice Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship. Stakeholders of the companies, NGO's and other social organisations are key players in Ethibel's way of working.