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Hans-Werner Gassner hands over presidency to Ivo Klein – Urs Monstein appointed new Vice-President

At the Annual General Meeting of the Liechtenstein Bankers Association (LBA), Hans-Werner Gassner handed over the presidency to his successor, Ivo Klein, after nine years in office. In line with the rotation principle, there was also a change in the vice-presidency: the Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Urs Monstein, CEO of VP Bank, as the new Vice-President for the coming three years. In addition, all member banks represented on the Board were unanimously confirmed for a further three-year term of office.

Change at the top of the Association

This year's Annual General Meeting marks the end of Hans-Werner Gassner's nine-year term as President of the Liechtenstein Bankers Association (LBA). Ivo Klein, who had already been elected as the new President at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, now officially assumes office with this year's AGM. Hans-Werner Gassner is handing over the presidency to his successor with great confidence: with his many years of experience, Ivo Klein is ideally placed to lead the Association. At the same time, he will be supported by a strong and highly professional Secretariat. For the coming three years, Gassner wishes him every success and much fulfilment in this important role. Ivo Klein is looking forward to his new role: "I would like to thank everyone for their trust and I am very pleased to take on this new challenge. It is an honour

to serve in this capacity and to work together with the Board and the Secretariat for the benefit of Liechtenstein's banking and financial centre."

Positive review after nine years

Hans-Werner Gassner looks back on his term of office with great gratitude and at the same time draws a positive conclusion regarding the current state of the banking centre: "What particularly pleases me is that I am able to hand over the presidency to my successor at a time when Liechtenstein's banks are in a stronger position than ever before: with a high reputation, exceptional stability and an outstanding level of capitalisation by international standards. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that average capitalisation is already increasing again after a period of intensive investment as well as organic and inorganic growth. In addition, the quality of capital is very high: Liechtenstein's banks hold their regulatory capital exclusively in the form of Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1), i.e. in the highest-quality form possible. This underlines the solidity, resilience and future viability of our financial centre, especially in a global environment shaped by uncertainty," said Gassner.

Change in the vice-presidency

In line with the regular rotation, there was also a change in the vice-presidency. Under the established rotation principle, this position will now be held by VP Bank. The Annual General Meeting unanimously elected Urs Monstein as the new Vice-President for the coming three years. He succeeds Christoph Reich. The election of the Vice-President is made on an ad personam basis.

In this context, Christoph Reich paid tribute both to his successor and to the outgoing President: "I wish Urs Monstein every success, satisfaction and sound judgement in his new role as Vice-President. At the same time, on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Hans-Werner Gassner for his great commitment and tireless dedication over the

past nine years. Under his leadership, Liechtenstein's banking centre was able to strengthen its position successfully."

Urs Monstein thanked Christoph Reich for his commitment and for his work as Vice-President and is looking forward to his new responsibilities: "I would like to sincerely thank Christoph Reich for his valuable commitment. At the same time, I am very much looking forward to my new role and to working together with the Board and the Secretariat."

Board confirmed for a further three years

The AGM also held the full renewal elections for the remainder of the Board. All member banks represented on the Board stood for re-election, and no new nominations were submitted. All existing Board banks were unanimously confirmed for a further three-year term.

The new Board therefore consists of President Ivo Klein, Vice-President Urs Monstein, and the Board banks LGT, LLB, Neue Bank, Bank Frick and Bendura Bank. The unanimous decisions underline the strong cohesion and unity within the Association.

As part of the other statutory agenda items, the Annual General Meeting newly appointed LGT's Internal Audit function as the LBA's statutory auditors as of the 2026 financial year. In addition, it approved the annual financial statements, which closed with a balanced result, and granted discharge to the Board and the Secretariat.

Thanks and outlook

With the change in the presidency and vice-presidency, as well as the confirmation of the entire Board, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association is setting the personnel course for the coming three years with a view to jointly further developing the financial centre and providing important impetus in an increasingly challenging international environment.



At the same time, this year's Annual General Meeting stands for continuity, unity and the consistent further development of Liechtenstein's banking centre.

About the LBA

The Liechtenstein Bankers Association was founded in 1969 and is the voice of Liechtenstein's banks both domestically and internationally. It is one of the country's most important associations and plays a central role in the successful development of the financial centre. As a member of the European Banking Federation (EBF), the European Payments Council (EPC) and the European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum (EPFSF), the Liechtenstein Bankers Association is represented in key European bodies and actively contributes to the legislative process. In addition, the Association has for many years been increasingly engaged in the area of sustainability and the future viability of the financial centre.

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