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Information for the Press

Change on the Board at Walter de Gruyter

Reinhold Tokar Leaves the Company

Berlin, Germany, 31/05/2006

Reinhold Tokar left the publishing house, which he has run as Managing Director since 1998, on 31/05/2006. He will dedicate himself to new tasks in the future. Management of Walter de Gruyter now lies in the sole hands of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and shareholder, Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Klaus G. Saur.

"I can look back in satisfaction at having led one of the most celebrated scientific publishing houses at a strategic point in its history, and having laid the foundations for future-oriented developments", says Reinhold Tokar. "An immense transformation has taken place in the market over the last few years. Incisive technological changes, increased product demands and growing digitalisation in combination with lower print runs present the publishing market with considerable challenges, which de Gruyter will also have to confront."

Mr. Tokar has created a solid basis for improving efficiency and competitiveness through the development of a modern infrastructure, the optimisation of production processes and the introduction of publishing software capable of meeting future demands. The development of digital content production and the amplified internationalisation of the company have helped to meet the changes in the market. Dr. Bernd Balzereit, Chairman of the Advisory Council, expresses his sadness at the departure of Mr. Tokar and thanks him for his services. "His commitment has had central influence on the continuing successful development of de Gruyter. Despite difficult market conditions, Walter de Gruyter has succeeded in defending its position as one of the top 100 publishing houses."

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Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co. KG: In business for over 255 years, the independent, scientific publishing house, headquartered in Berlin, publishes around 250 new titles in the arts, medicine, natural and legal sciences each year, half of which are in English, and around 60 specialist journals, and digital media. www.degruyter.de