



Women on Board switches into higher gear with a new governance empowering Women on Board's ambitions.

Brussels, 8 September 2016

Today, Women on Board organized an event at Belfius to present her new ambition supported by sharpened governance. The new governance and management was announced and the chair handed over by Sonja Rottiers to Françoise Roels. Dominique Leroy, CEO Proximus, spoke vividly on "Driving transformation in a fast changing world". The aim to have more women on board of Belgian companies is written in stone. More than 250 attendees at the event show we can be confident the fast lane starts to open up.

Companies displaying greater board gender diversity display excess stock market returns adjusted for sector bias. Companies with more than one woman on the board have returned a compound 3,7% a year over those that have non since 2005.(...)We find also that companies with higher female representation at the board level or in the top management exhibit higher returns on equity, higher valuations and also higher pay-out ratios.¹ These are the "hard" facts.

"Driving transformation in a fast changing world requires strong leadership and direction. The more diverse the more energy can be generated to be successful in all endeavours ahead. The development of future talent is highly influenced by presence of women in boards" says **Dominique Leroy, CEO Proximus and member of Women on Board**

"It's with great confidence and enthusiasm that I take over the Presidency of Women on Board. With our new General Manager Trees Paelinck, the Executive Committee Anne Tilleux, Nicoline Spruijt, Miriam Murphy and Laurence Janssens, and our partners, we have a passionate team to realise our ambition "more women on the board of Belgian companies!" Women on Board aims to further enlarge the talent pool (currently 236 talents) and pro-actively advise companies to create more diversity in their board of directors. A lot of companies are still missing the talent and insights that women have to offer. The presence of women in a board of directors leads to better results and stimulates the development of talent. Today, we are reinforcing our organisation to meet this exciting challenge" concludes **new Chair Françoise Roels**.

Women on Board (a non-profit organisation) was founded in 2009 by five talented women Sonja Rottiers, Marie Evrard, Françoise Roels, Emmanuèle Attout and Cécile Coune. The main goal is to create a pool of talented women ready to take up board positions. Today, our talent pool consists of 236 women. Every year, around 40 of these women take up a board mandate. 20 companies decided to sponsor and support Women on Board. We organise 6 to 7 events per year and mentoring programs to support our members. Women on Board is founding member of European Women on Boards. All information can be found on www.womenonboard.be

Feel free to forward this message to whoever may be interested. Do you currently have a vacancy for your Board of Directors? Or would you like to be admitted to our pool? Please contact trees.paelinck@gmail.com

¹ "The CS Gender 3000: Women in Senior management",Crédit Suisse Research Institute (2014)