

PRESS RELEASE

St. Gallen, 16 September 2026

FILTROX announces Succession of Chairman and CEO

Driven by the "FILTROX 2030" vision, our company has undergone a period of intensive transformation. Among other things, we have optimized our brand positioning, reorganized our global sales and distribution systems, and made massive investments in our production infrastructure. This process was largely completed last year with the opening of our expanded plant in the UK. Thanks to the tremendous support of our customers, employees, and partners, the company has been sustainably strengthened and is on a successful course. Two things have remained constant amid all these changes: our clear focus on depth filtration for valuable liquids and our promise to providing our customers around the world with the best solution for their filtration needs.



Symbolic hand over of the key, which is cut out of a FILTROX PURAFIX® Filtersheet

From left to right: Jürgen Herburger (CFO), Gian Marco Gaudiano (CSO), Christoph Ernst (incoming CEO), Leo Staub (Chairman), Cristian Rusch (outgoing CEO), Thoralf Matthes (COO), Christoph Föhr (CMO).



In light of the above, we would like to inform you today of an important personnel change. After 11 successful years as Chairman of the Board of Directors, **Leo Staub** has announced that he will not stand for re-election at the next annual shareholder's meeting in spring 2027. He will stay on the Board as a regular member. It is planned that his successor as Chairman will be **Cristian Rusch**, who is currently Vice Chairman and Delegate of the Board as well as CEO. In order to prepare for this change, Cristian is stepping down from his role as CEO.

The new CEO of FILTROX will be **Christoph Ernst**. He has already been preparing thoroughly for this role. He officially joined FILTROX on September 14, 2026. Following an intensive onboarding and handover phase, he will assume full responsibility as CEO on October 5, 2026. Christoph Ernst has extensive leadership experience in various international and family-owned industrial companies. His personality, his excellent educational background and professional development, as well as his wealth of experience in CFO and CEO positions, make him ideally qualified for the task ahead. He is particularly motivated by the opportunity to continue FILTROX's successful development and to shape the company's long-term future together with employees, customers, and partners.

After 23 years of working for FILTROX the last 15 of which as CEO, Cristian looks forward to support Christoph Ernst and his leadership team from a strategic perspective and share his experience with them. The same is true for Leo Staub as a board member. At the same time, Cristian Rusch and his family will continue to be major shareholders of the company. Furthermore, the proven and experienced Group Leadership Team, consisting of Christoph Föhr (CMO), Gian Marco Gaudiano (CSO), Jürgen Herburger (CFO), and Thoralf Matthes (COO), will also remain unchanged and is committed to fully support the transition together with the Board. All of this ensures stability, continuity, and long-term focus on every level.

Cristian Rusch comments: "Serving as CEO of FILTROX has been a great honour and a source of personal fulfilment for me over the last 15 years. Together with our fantastic team and supported by our great customers, we have developed the company, overcome many challenges, and celebrated several successes. Thanks to all the strategic transformation initiatives we implemented in the last years, FILTROX is well prepared for the future. I am convinced that now is the right time for a change of CEOs. The new leadership will be a benefit for the company and provide new momentum. I look forward to continuing to support FILTROX in my new role."

Christoph Ernst says: "I am very much looking forward to my new position at FILTROX. The company has a very strong market position, dedicated employees, and a great production infrastructure. In the coming months, I would like to get to know as many customers and partners as possible in person and look forward to a direct dialogue."



Leo Staub adds: *"On behalf of the entire Board and all the shareholders of FILTROX, we would like to thank Cristian Rusch for his hard work and tremendous dedication, which has successfully shaped the company. We wish him good success and fulfilment in his new role. We also wish Christoph Ernst every success and a good start as CEO. Together with my colleagues from the Board of Directors, we will support the transition process closely."*

One thing is particularly important to us: Even with this leadership transition, FILTROX's vision and focus remain unchanged. We will continue to do everything in our power to support our customers with the highest quality, reliability, innovation, and performance. The well-being of our customers, employees, and partners will remain at the centre of everything we do.

For further Questions please contact
Christoph Föhr, Chief Marketing Officer
christoph.foehr@filtrox.com / Tel. +41 71 272 91 34
Gian Marco Gaudiano, Chief Sales Officer
Gianmarco.gaudiano@filtrox.com / Tel. +41 71 272 92 35