



FEDERATION EUROPEENNE & INTERNATIONALE  
DES INDUSTRIES DE LA PIERRE NATURELLE

EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF NATURAL STONE INDUSTRIES

## **Press Declaration: New President Ragnar Kjeserud, Norway**

For the first time in history the European Federation of Natural Stone Industries (EUROROC) elected a President from Norway in Verona on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> 2012. The decision for a candidate of a non-EU member state was taken unanimously and shows the high reputation Mr. Kjeserud has among the members of EUROROC.

Who is he? Mr. Kjeserud was born in 1945 and is the Chairman of the family owned stone processing company Askim Stenindustri AS (Askim Stoneindustri) that was established in 1923.

The production ranges comprises gravestones, processing slabs, slate, different granite products and is one of the biggest producers of kitchen tops in Norway.

Ragnar Kjeserud was chairman in the Federation of Norwegian Stone Industries (SIL) 1998 -2008. In the same period he represented SIL in EUROROC until The Norwegian Mining and Quarrying Industries (Norsk Bergindustri) was founded on March 28th 2008. The Federation of Norwegian Stone Industry (SIL) and the Norwegian Aggregates Producers Association (PGL) decided to merge in order to join forces to promote their members interests. Mr. Kjeserud is know as expert writer on several articles about processing and cultural aspects of natural stone and its industry.

Mr. Kjeserud is as well CEO and owner of Management Training Laboratory AS. He has been member of the staff to The National Governmental Action Control Group in Norway dealing with disasters and major oil spills relating to the offshore activities in The North Sea and had several appointments as on-scene coordinator. He has been head of office for National Operating and Training Centre for oil pollution control of North Norway.

Currents tasks relate to national and international contingency planning for governmental authorities, industry bodies, and onshore as well as offshore operations.

In Scandinavia Mr. Kjeserud is an recognized disaster expert and he is well known for having developed a method to train people in crisis management. He has more than 25 years of experience in training crisis management and is a well known lecturer in Scandinavia. He is the founder of Crisis Management Academy own by Stockholm School of Economics SSE, Executive Education Group and author of several books and articles on the subject.

In his inauguration speech Mr. Kjeserud thanked his predecessor, Dtt. Stefano Ghirardi for his work in the last two years especially in the field of sustainable development. He pointed out that he will continue this path and help to adapt the European stone industry to the future. What is needed is not just strength, power, financial resources and know how, but the capacity to adapt to an economic situation that always changes.

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### ***EURO-ROC Brussels Office***

19, Avenue de l'Yser  
B- 1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium  
Ph: 00 32 2 732.4220  
Mobile: 0049 172 6141424  
Fax: 0032.2.732.4813  
Webpage: [www.euroroc.net](http://www.euroroc.net)  
E-mail: [office@euroroc.net](mailto:office@euroroc.net)

### ***EURO-ROC General Secretary***

Gluckstrasse 10  
D-65193 Wiesbaden  
Germany  
Ph: 00 49 611 97712-11  
Mobile: +49-172/6141424  
Fax: 0049 611-97712-48  
Fax: 0049 611-1747139  
E-mail: [Merke@euroroc.net](mailto:Merke@euroroc.net)



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The key word is flexibility. Only the companies that are able to adapt to a continuously changing world have the key for economic survival in their hands.

Restoration and high-tec applications of natural stone need qualified education and training, which starts with stone workers up to high-tec stone engineers. In the lifecycle of construction materials natural stone fulfils all criteria of a biological product and is in line with sustainable development. The scope of use of natural stone is nearly unlimited: It is up to us what we make out of it.

Brussels/Wiesbaden October 2012

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19, Avenue de l'Yser  
B- 1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium  
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Mobile: 0049 172 6141424  
Fax: 0032.2.732.4813  
Webpage: [www.euroroc.net](http://www.euroroc.net)  
E-mail: [office@euroroc.net](mailto:office@euroroc.net)

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Gluckstrasse 10  
D-65193 Wiesbaden  
Germany  
Ph: 00 49 611 97712-11  
Mobile: +49-172/6141424  
Fax: 0049 611-97712-48  
Fax: 0049 611-1747139  
E-mail: [Merke@euroroc.net](mailto:Merke@euroroc.net)