

Press Release

Stefan Top elected new CEMA President

Brussels, 27th November 2024

Mr. **Stefan Top is the new President of CEMA**, the European Agricultural Machinery Association. The CEMA Board of Directors and the CEMA General Assembly unanimously elected Mr. Top for a two-year term during their respective meetings on the 19th of November in Strasbourg, France.

Thierry Krier, Carlo Lambro, Alessandro Malavolti, and Christoph Wigger have been elected Vice-Presidents.

The engagement of senior company leaders with CEMA highlights the growing significance of the European Union for the agricultural machinery industry.

Mr. Stefan Top is the Managing Director of AVR and has been the representative of the Belgian Federation Agoria in the CEMA Board of Directors since 2011. A seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in the agricultural machinery sector, Mr. Top brings significant industry knowledge, expertise, and leadership to the role. Mr. Top holds a master's degree in electromechanical engineering and a master's degree in industrial management from KU Leuven. His career began in 1993 as a design engineer at AVR. Over the years, he has held numerous roles within the company, including Product Manager (1999), Sales Director, and Board member (2003). In 2011, he was appointed Managing Director. Mr. Top has also served as President of the Business group for agricultural and horticultural machinery within Agoria since 2019.

Mr. Top succeeds Mr. **Thierry Krier**, President and CEO of Kuhn Group, who has led CEMA with distinction for four years. Reflecting on this transition, Mr. Top said:

"I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing President, Thierry, for his exceptional leadership over the past two terms. Thierry has guided our organization with great dedication and skill, steering CEMA through unprecedented challenges, including the COVID crisis. Under his leadership, we have successfully held impactful CEMA summits, welcomed a new Secretary General, and strengthened the voice of our industry in Europe. Thank you, Thierry, for your unwavering commitment and for leaving CEMA stronger and more resilient than ever."

Mr. Top added: *"I am deeply honoured by the trust and confidence the Board has placed in me. I will embrace this responsibility with integrity and dedication. Our sector is vast and diverse. We have companies producing machinery for large arable farms and many SMEs serving smaller farms*

specializing in high-value specialty crops. As President, I will work to represent and support the whole agricultural machinery industry in all its diversity."

The four Vice-Presidents elected by the CEMA Board of Directors and CEMA General Assembly are:

- Mr. **Thierry Krier** – President and CEO of Kuhn Group (representing AXEMA)
- Mr. **Carlo Lambro** – Brand President of New Holland and CEO of CNH Italy
- Mr. **Alessandro Malavolti** – CEO of AMA (representing FederUnacoma), serving a second term as Vice-President
- Mr. **Christoph Wigger** – Vice President, Small Grains Production Systems, John Deere

The Vice-Presidents bring exceptional industry knowledge, ensuring strong leadership for CEMA as it continues to represent the interests of over 1,300 agricultural machinery manufacturers in Europe. With a combined turnover of 40 billion euro, Europe is the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery in the world and in value the largest exporter.

The CEMA President, as well as its Vice-Presidents, are elected for a two-year term and are eligible for re-election once.

Under this new leadership team, CEMA will further strengthen its efforts to support digital transformation, environmental sustainability, and global competitiveness within the agricultural machinery sector.

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Outgoing CEMA President Thierry Krier (on the left) and CEMA President Stefan Top (on the right) shake hands after the CEMA Board meeting

ABOUT CEMA

CEMA aisbl (www.cema-agri.org) is the association representing the European agricultural machinery industry. With 11 national member associations, the CEMA network represents both large multinational companies and numerous European SMEs active in this sector.

CEMA represents about 1,300 manufacturers, producing more than 450 different types of machines with an annual industry turnover of about €40 billion and 150,000 direct employees. CEMA companies produce a large range of machines that cover any activity in the field from seeding to harvesting, as well as equipment for livestock management.



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