



Press release

Berlin, November 23, 2020

Ola Källenius succeeds Dieter Zetsche as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ESMT Foundation

Ola Källenius, Chairman of the Board of Management, Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz AG, has succeeded Dr. Dieter Zetsche as the Chair of the [Board of Trustees of the ESMT Foundation](#) as of August 1, 2020. Dieter Zetsche, former CEO of Daimler, had held this position since 2015.

The period in which Dieter Zetsche chaired the board of trustees was one of impressive recognition and growth. During his tenure, the international business school received the “Triple Crown” from the world’s three leading business education accrediting bodies AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS, and was ranked as Germany’s top business school in the Financial Times [European Business School Ranking 2019](#). The number of students in the [Full-time MBA](#), the [Executive MBA](#), and the [Master's in Management](#) programs doubled, and [executive education](#) expanded internationally.

Werner Zedelius, Chairman of the [Supervisory Board of ESMT](#), said, “We are very grateful to Dieter Zetsche for his strong dedication over the past five years. His leadership of the board of trustees played a vital role in ESMT’s successful rise to be among the top business schools in Europe. We look forward to continuing this successful path with Ola Källenius.”

There have also been further changes to the ESMT Board of Trustees. In addition to Deutsche Telekom CEO Timotheus Höttges, Deutsche Bank CEO Christian Sewing and Roland Busch, Vice Chairman and Member of the Managing Board of Siemens, have recently joined the board. There are also new additions to the ESMT Supervisory Board. Judith Wiese, Member of the Managing Board and Labor Director of Siemens, joined on November 12. Filiz Albrecht, future Managing Director and Labor Director of Bosch, will join on January 1, 2021. “We are very pleased that we have been able to attract additional top managers from Germany industry to our boards,” said Jörg Rocholl, President of ESMT.

“ESMT has taken its place as Germany’s top business school and is ready to play an even more important role globally,” said Ola Källenius. “I am delighted to be part of the next period, where we will continue to expand, not only internationally, but also in the digital space.”

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About ESMT Berlin

ESMT Berlin is the highest ranked business school in Germany and Top 10 in Europe. Founded by 25 leading global companies, ESMT offers master’s, MBA, and PhD programs, as well as executive education on its campus in Berlin, in locations around the world, and in online blended format. Focusing on leadership, innovation, and analytics, its diverse faculty publishes outstanding research in top academic journals. Additionally, the international business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. ESMT is a non-profit private institution of higher education, accredited by AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS, and FIBAA. esmt.berlin