

## PRESS RELEASE

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### STSA Elects New President

Geneva, 10 January 2019 – STSA, Switzerland’s major trade and shipping association, has unanimously elected Ramon M. Esteve III, Board Member of Ecom Agroindustrial Corporation Ltd., based in the Vaud Canton, as its new President. He replaces Mr. David Fransen from Vitol SA, who retires after five years in the STSA presidency, but will remain an active and valued Board member of STSA.

Mr. Ramon Esteve has been part of STSA since 2008, and joined its Management Committee in 2016. Succeeding predecessors active predominantly in trade finance and energy, his diverse agricultural commodities background reflects the wide breadth and variety of commodity trading. At a time when Switzerland faces increasing competition and political challenges, Mr. Ramon Esteve’s election, a graduate in Law from University of Lausanne, will be a strong asset for STSA. Thanks to his extensive experience in agricultural science and management, Mr. Ramon Esteve brings a wealth of knowledge in the various related aspects of commodity trading and supply chains, farmer development, and commodity trade finance. During his long career, in keeping with STSA’s work in sustainability and responsible business, Mr. Ramon Esteve has been active in bringing together different stakeholders to develop corporate policies and best practices adapted to the agri/softs industry, and has particular expertise in product traceability, processing, and certification.

Under David Fransen’s presidency, the Swiss commodity trading hub set up STSA as the national umbrella association for the activity. By bringing together GTSA, ZCA and LCTA, the new STSA flourished, reinforcing the presence and credibility of commodity trading at the national level. David Fransen also led the Association during its journey through the development of the Guidance for Business and Human Rights, which was published in 2018. There is no doubt that under the presidency of Mr. David Fransen, the Association has risen to new heights. *“David Fransen has set the bar high, and I am happy that he will continue to play an active role within the Association to share his expertise and his unique British sense of humour. I look forward to expanding STSA’s presence in Switzerland and to furthering the Association’s work on sustainability and transparency”*, said Ramon Esteve.

Also elected with Mr. Ramon Esteve were Mr. Hans-Christian Jensen from ADM International Sàrl and Mr. Jean-Pierre Carles from Augusta Energy SA, both as Vice Presidents of the Association.

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The Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA) is an umbrella association which brings together three regional associations: GTSA (Geneva Trading and Shipping Association), LCTA (Lugano Commodity Trading Association) and ZCA (Zug Commodity Association). STSA’s mission is to provide a neutral platform of exchange to all companies active in commodity trading to support their activities, defend their interests, and improve the understanding of the activity amongst the public at large.

STSA counts amongst its members over 170 companies across Switzerland active in commodity trading, shipping, inspection and certification, trade finance, and other associated services. This economic activity is one of the most important in the country, representing 3.9% of Swiss GDP and employing around 35,000 professionals in Switzerland.