



Press Release

Activa Capital announces the appointment of Xavier Govare, former President of Labeyrie Fine Foods, as Chairman of its Industrial Committee

Paris, 19 May 2017 - Activa Capital, an independent French private equity firm, announces the appointment of Xavier Govare, 59, former President of Labeyrie Fine Foods, to succeed Philippe du Mesnil, 67, former President of Ceva Santé Animale, as Chairman of the Industrial Committee. Philippe du Mesnil will remain fully active on the Industrial Committee, of which he has been a productive member for more than 14 years.

The Industrial Committee is composed of 15 renowned industry experts who support the Activa Capital team in the study of investment opportunities and the monitoring of portfolio companies.

“Having had the pleasure of serving as President of Activa’s Industrial Committee for seven years, I’m happy to welcome Xavier Govare as my successor,” Philippe du Mesnil said. “What distinguishes Activa Capital is the concrete support the firm brings to the management of small and medium sized companies so that they can grow and become European or world leaders in their sectors. In this sense Xavier’s experience will be of great value.”

“I’m pleased to join Activa in order to help high-potential companies, including those in the food industry,” added Xavier Govare. “I firmly believe in the growth potential of France’s innovative SMEs, in terms of product or brand, and Activa’s ability to discover new companies and to help them become success stories in the years to come, just as as the firm did with Materne/Mont Blanc, Pronatura, and Alliance Etiquettes.”

“We are delighted to welcome Xavier Govare as chairman of our Industrial Committee to succeed Philippe du Mesnil,” added Charles Diehl, Partner of Activa Capital. “Both Xavier and Philippe carried out successive LBOs at their respective companies that translated into strong organic growth first in France and then internationally through a number of build-ups. Under Xavier’s chairmanship, Labeyrie’s revenue grew by a factor of 36 from 1989 to 2016, thanks to a strong organic growth and twelve acquisitions. Today a full 45% of the company’s revenue comes from outside France. We will benefit greatly from his experience as we continue to

discover and accompany talented new entrepreneurs on their path to becoming SMEs with an international presence.”



Xavier Govare

Xavier Govare, 59, an alumnus of the EDHEC business school with a Master in marketing, began his career at Reckitt Benckser in 1983. Starting in 1985, he worked four years for Best Foods (now a Unilever subsidiary). He joined Labeyrie Fine Foods in 1989 as sales and marketing manager. In 2000 he was appointed President and CEO of the Group. Under his leadership, Group Labeyrie grew its revenue by a factor of 36 between 1989

and 2016, and now has more than 5,000 employees. He is also a Director of Savencia Fromage & Dairy as well as Logismose Meyers.

About Activa Capital

Activa Capital is a leading French mid-market private equity firm. Activa Capital manages over €500m of assets on behalf of a wide range of institutional investors. Activa Capital partners with ambitious mid-sized French companies, valued at €30m to €200m, seeking to accelerate their growth and their international footprint.

Learn more about Activa Capital at www.activacapital.com or on twitter @activacapital