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Embargo —

Hans Rudolf Widmer chairman of the Swiss Takeover Board

February 28, 2006 – The Swiss Federal Banking Commission has elected the lawyer Hans Rudolf Widmer as chairman of the Swiss Takeover Board (TOB). Hans Rudolf Widmer has been heading the TOB as chairman ad interim since Hans Caspar von der Crone's resignation as of 31 October 2005. Hans Rudolf Widmer, a member of the TOB since 1 January 2004, has been its deputy chairman since 1 January 2005. He is a former member of the group executive committee of Rieter Holding AG and is a member of the board of directors of Bobst Group AG.

As deputy chairman of the TOB the Swiss Federal Banking Commission has elected Claire Huguenin. She has been a member of the TOB since 1 January 1998. Claire Huguenin is a practising lawyer and professor-in-ordinary for private, commercial and European law at the University of Zurich.

Hans Rudolf Widmer and Claire Huguenin were elected for the current term of office until the end of 2007.

The <u>TOB</u> was established under the Federal Act on Stock Exchanges and Securities Trading and monitors compliance with the provisions applicable to public takeover offers. It currently is composed of nine members.