

# THE BOARD

*On 31 December 2008, the RTL Group Board of Directors had eight members: one executive director, and seven non-executive directors.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Gerhard Zeiler**  
Chief Executive Officer

Gerhard Zeiler, born in 1955 in Vienna (Austria), joined RTL Group in November 1998 when he was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RTL Television in Cologne. In this capacity, Zeiler was responsible for the German RTL family of channels (RTL Television, Vox, RTL II, Super RTL, N-TV). In March 2003 Gerhard Zeiler was additionally appointed CEO of RTL Group. He handed over the management of RTL Television to Anke Schäferkordt in September 2005 to fully concentrate on RTL Group's international entertainment network.

In his function as CEO of RTL Group, Gerhard Zeiler is a member of the Supervisory Boards of Groupe M6 in France and RTL Television in Germany, member and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Alpha Media Group in Greece and Chairman of the Board of M-RTL in Hungary. He has been a member of the Bertelsmann AG Executive Board since October 2005.

Gerhard Zeiler began his career as a freelance journalist and then became press spokesman for the Austrian Minister for Education and the Arts, Dr Fred Sinowatz, whom he eventually followed to the Federal Chancellor Office in 1983. Later he continued working in the same capacity for Federal Chancellor Dr Franz Vranitzky. In 1986 he became Secretary-General of the Austrian public broadcaster ORF in Vienna. After a two-year period as CEO of Tele 5 and a further two-year period as CEO of RTL II, he was elected Chief Executive Officer of ORF in 1994 and stayed in this position until November 1998.

*Appointed: 4 March 2003*

## NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



**Siegfried Luther**  
Chairman

Siegfried Luther, born in 1944, was Chief Financial Officer (since 1990) and Deputy Chairman (since 2002) of Bertelsmann AG, Gütersloh. He retired at the end of 2005. Between 1974 and 1990 he held various senior positions at Bertelsmann AG in taxes, group accounting and treasury, and corporate finance. He graduated as a doctor of law from the University of Münster (Germany).

*Appointed: 24 July 2000*

### Committee membership:

Audit, Nomination and Compensation

### Mandates in listed companies:

Member of the Supervisory Boards of Infineon Technologies AG, Munich; WestLB AG, Düsseldorf; Wintershall Holding AG, Kassel; and Evonik Industries AG, Essen. Non-executive member of the Board of Directors of Compagnie Nationale à Portefeuille SA, Loverval



**Martin Taylor**  
Vice-Chairman;  
Independent Director

Martin Taylor, born in 1952, began his career as a financial journalist with Reuters and the *Financial Times*. He then joined Courtaulds PLC, becoming a director in 1987, and then Chief Executive of Courtaulds Textiles PLC on its demerger in 1990. He moved to Barclays PLC in 1993 as Chief Executive, a post he held until the end of 1998. From 1999 to 2003 he was Chairman of WH Smith PLC and from 1999 to 2005 International Advisor to Goldman Sachs. Currently he is Chairman of the Board of Syngenta AG. He has worked on various projects for the British Government and served for five years as a member of its Council for Science and Technology. Appointed as independent, non-executive director in July 2000 (when RTL Group was created), he took over the responsibilities of Vice-Chairman of the Board in December 2004.

*Appointed: 25 July 2000*

**Committee membership:**  
Audit, Nomination and Compensation  
(Chairman)

**Mandates in listed companies:**  
Chairman of the Board of Syngenta AG (CH)

**Günther Grüger**  
Executive Vice President  
Corporate Controlling and  
Strategy of Bertelsmann AG



Günther Grüger, born in Germany in 1951, is currently Executive Vice President Corporate Controlling and Strategy of Bertelsmann AG. From 1983 until 1997 he held various positions at Bertelsmann. Before joining Bertelsmann he worked in the Corporate Controlling Department of Oetker Group. He holds a diploma and a doctorate in Economics from the University of Münster (Germany).

*Appointed: 29 August 2006*



**Hartmut Ostrowski**  
Chairman of the  
Executive Board and  
CEO, Bertelsmann AG

After having studied business administration at the University of Bielefeld, Hartmut Ostrowski, born in 1958, joined Bertelsmann in 1982 as Executive Assistant in what was then Bertelsmann Distribution. A year later, he was head of the credit management division. In 1988, he became Managing Director of a German subsidiary of Security Pacific, at the time the fourth-largest bank in the United States. In April 1990, he returned to Bertelsmann Distribution as head of a business unit. In July 1992, he was appointed Managing Director, and in July 1995, he became CEO of the newly formed Bertelsmann Services Group. Hartmut Ostrowski was appointed to the Arvato Executive Board in 1996, and became CEO of Arvato AG and a member of the Bertelsmann AG Executive Board in September 2002. He has been Chairman and CEO of Bertelsmann AG since 1 January 2008.

*Appointed: 7 December 2007  
(effective 1 January 2008)*

**Committee membership:**  
Nomination and Compensation

**NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**



**Thomas Rabe**  
*Member of the Bertelsmann AG Executive Board and Chief Financial Officer of Bertelsmann AG*

Thomas Rabe, born in Luxembourg-Ville in 1965, holds a diploma and a doctorate in economics from the University of Cologne (Germany). He started his career in 1989 at the European Commission in Brussels. From 1990 to 1996 he held various senior positions at Forrester Norall & Sutton (now White & Case) in Brussels as well as the state privatisation agency Treuhandanstalt and a venture capital fund in Berlin. In 1996, he joined Cedel International (Clearstream, following the merger with Deutsche Börse Clearing) where he was appointed Chief Financial Officer and member of the Management Board in 1998. In 2000, Thomas Rabe became Chief Financial Officer and member of the Executive Committee of RTL Group. In March 2003 he was also appointed Head of the Corporate Centre with responsibility for the Luxembourgish activities of RTL Group. He has been Chief Financial Officer and Head of the Corporate Centre of Bertelsmann AG since January 2006.

*Appointed: 12 December 2005  
 (effective 1 January 2006)*

**Committee membership:**  
 Audit, Nomination and Compensation

**Onno Ruding**  
*Chairman of the Board of the Centre for European Policy Studies; Independent Director*



Born in 1939, Onno Ruding served as the Minister of Finance of The Netherlands for the Christian Democratic Party (CDA) from November 1982 until November 1989. In July 1990, he became Vice-Chairman of Citicorp, and in March 1992, he was appointed Vice-Chairman of Citicorp/Citibank in New York. He retired in September 2003. In January 2002, he became Chairman of the Board of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels, the largest independent think-tank in Europe addressing subjects related to European integration.

*Appointed: 12 September 2000*

**Committee membership:**  
 Audit (Chairman)

**Mandates in listed companies:**  
 Corning, Holcim



**Jacques Santer**  
*Chairman of the Board of CLT-UFA; Independent Director*

Before Jacques Santer, born in 1937, became Chairman of the Board of CLT-UFA in May 2004, his distinguished career covered a variety of political roles including Member of the European Parliament (1974 to 1979 and 1999 to 2004), Prime Minister of Luxembourg (1984 to 1995) and President of the European Commission (1995 to 1999).

*Appointed: 9 December 2004*

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# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Gerhard Zeiler**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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Further to his roles as Executive Director and CEO of RTL Group, Gerhard Zeiler is in charge of programme and synergies throughout all operations. He oversees the operations in Germany (television), France (television), UK, Greece and FremantleMedia. RTL Group Corporate Communications & Marketing also reports to him, as does Human Resources, which also reports to the CFO.

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**Elmar Heggen**  
*Chief Financial Officer  
and Head of  
the Corporate Centre*

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Elmar Heggen, born in 1968, holds a diploma in business administration from the European Business School and graduated as Master of Business Administration (MBA) in finance. In 1992, he started his career at the Felix Schoeller Group, becoming Vice President and General Manager of Felix Schoeller Digital Imaging in the UK in 1999. Elmar Heggen first joined the RTL Group Corporate Centre in 2000 as Vice President Mergers and Acquisitions. In January 2003, he was promoted to Senior Vice President Controlling and Investments. From July 2003 until December 2005 he was Executive Vice President Strategy and Controlling.

Since January 2006, Elmar Heggen has served on the RTL Group Executive Management team, and since 1 October 2006 he has been CFO and Head of the Corporate Centre of RTL Group. In this capacity, he controls Finance, Strategy and Business Development, Online Strategy and Legal. He also oversees the operations in the Netherlands, France (radio), Luxembourg, Spain and UFA Sports.

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**Andreas Rudas**  
*Executive Vice President  
Regional Operations &  
Business Development Central  
and Eastern Europe*

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Andreas Rudas, born in 1953, worked with the Austrian public broadcaster ORF from 1986 to 1997, being its Secretary-General from 1994 to 1997. In this role, he was responsible for business planning, media politics, marketing and satellite broadcasting. Starting in 2000, he held various positions at Magna International Europe, being member of the Management Board from 2001 to 2005. Since December 2005, Andreas Rudas was Executive Director of WAZ Ost Holding (subsidiary of WAZ Media Group), responsible for Austria, South Eastern Europe and Vietnam.

Andreas Rudas was appointed a new member of the RTL Group Executive Committee with effect from 1 January 2009. In this capacity, he oversees the operations in Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Russia, Germany (radio) and explores business opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe, and in Asia.

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Each month, the Executive Committee informs the Board of Directors on the results of the Group and its main profit centres. The compensation of the members of the Executive Committee is determined by the Nomination and Compensation Committee, and is composed of a fixed and a variable part (see note 8.3. to the consolidated financial statements). Some members of the Executive Committee also benefit from the Company's share option programme, established by the Board of Directors on 25 July 2000. During 2008, none of the members of the Executive Committee exercised any option (see note 5.15.8. to the consolidated financial statements) and no additional options or loans were granted.

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