



THE PHOENIX AWARD® COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release
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CLAUDE PICOT NAMED THE 31ST PHOENIX AWARD WINNER

Claude Picot, Senior Vice-President of Compagnie de Saint-Gobain, has been named the Phoenix Award "Glass Person of the Year" recipient for the year 2001, as announced by Dick Marshall, chairman of the Phoenix Award Selection Committee.

The Phoenix Award is bestowed annually to an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution in the glass industry in the field of science, production, or education, relating to glass containers, fiber glass, scientific glass, flat glass, tableware and electronic glass. Mr. Picot was unanimously selected to receive the Phoenix Award in recognition of his outstanding business acumen in bringing Saint-Gobain to the strategic forefront as a leading glass containers producer. The 31st recipient and the first person at Saint-Gobain to be honored with the Phoenix Award, Mr. Picot said, "This is a reward not only for me but also for all the people in Saint-Gobain world-wide."

Saint-Gobain Containers is the largest glass containers producer in Europe, following an aggressive expansion from 1988 to 1992, and the second largest glass containers producer in the United States following the acquisition and subsequent merger of Ball Glass and Foster-Forbes in 1995.

Based in Paris, France, Saint-Gobain is the world's largest building materials manufacturer, producing high-performance plastics, insulation, glass containers, piping, reinforcements, abrasives and industrial ceramics. One of the top 100 industrial companies in the world, Compagnie de Saint-Gobain had sales of \$26.6 billion in 2000. The company has more than 170,000 employees in 46 countries.

A graduate of the Paris School of Mines, Mr. Picot did post-graduate work at INSEAD and Stanford Business School. In 1963, he began his career in the glass industry as an engineer with Corning Inc. in the glass operations in France, where following several manufacturing positions, he became plant manager and soon afterwards, General Manager, leaving Corning Inc. (then known as Corning Glass Works) in 1978.

Mr. Picot joined the Saint-Gobain Group in 1979, and presently holds positions worldwide, including President of the company's Branch, Chief Executive Officer of Saint-Gobain Emballage, Chairman of Saint-Gobain Containers, and is director of several Saint-Gobain subsidiaries.

When asked what he envisions "glass" to represent to the future of mankind, Mr. Picot praised the international glass community stating that, "Glass makers were among the first to understand that the foremost environmental problem would be the handling of waste and for almost 30 years now, have strived to solve this problem economically, both by reducing the weight of containers and by taking advantage of the property of unlimited recyclability."

Picot presently serves as Chairman of the Laboratoire National d'Essais, a public scientific institution.

Born on October 11, 1937, Mr. Picot is married, and has three children.

The prestigious Steuben glass sculptured award of the Phoenix rising out of ashes will be presented to Mr. Picot on September 28, 2001 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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