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Press release →

Change at the top of LBBW's Supervisory Board

Christian Brand to step down in March – Gabriele Kellermann elected as new Chair

- Christian Brand steps down as Chairman after ten successful years
- Banking expert Kellermann unanimously elected as successor
- First ever woman to chair the Supervisory Board

From 1 April 2026, the controlling and advisory body of Germany's largest Landesbank will be headed by a woman for the first time. After ten successful years, Christian Brand will hand over the chairmanship of LBBW's Supervisory Board to Gabriele Kellermann, who was unanimously elected as his successor at today's Supervisory Board meeting. Kellermann is the Deputy Chair of the Board of Managing Directors of BBBank and has been a member of LBBW's Supervisory Board since 2020. This early decision will enable an orderly transition and ensure continuity in the Supervisory Board's work.

"I am grateful and proud of having had the opportunity to guide LBBW and contribute to its successful development for such a long time. I would like to thank the owners, the Board of Managing Directors and the employees of the Bank for the cooperation we enjoyed and the trust they placed in me," said Christian Brand ahead of stepping down. Starting from 2005, the 76-year-old former Chairman of the Board of Management of the state-owned L-Bank held various roles in the Owners' Meeting and the Administrative Board of LBBW, the predecessor to today's Supervisory Board, before taking over as Chairman of the Supervisory Board in 2015.

"Christian Brand has achieved great things during his time with LBBW, playing a significant part in making it one of Germany's strongest and most powerful banks today. In Gabriele Kellermann, we have found a highly qualified successor who already has extensive knowledge of LBBW," commented Dr. Danyal Bayaz, Baden-Württemberg State Minister of Finance.

"Christian Brand guided LBBW through a challenging time in his role as Chairman of the Supervisory Board with great prudence and foresight. The success that LBBW enjoys today is also his legacy, and he deserves our gratitude. We are delighted that Gabriele Kellermann will provide continuity at the top of the Supervisory Board thanks to her many years of experience," said Dr. Matthias Neth, President of the Savings Banks Association of Baden-Württemberg.

Dr. Frank Nopper, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, added: “Christian Brand is an experienced player in the banking industry who guided LBBW with a steady hand and great expertise as Chairman of the Supervisory Board. In doing so, he also contributed to Stuttgart’s good reputation as a financial center. Gabriele Kellermann has the ideal credentials to successfully lead LBBW’s Supervisory Board in the coming years.”

“I would like to thank Christian Brand for the success we have enjoyed while working together on behalf of LBBW,” said LBBW CEO Rainer Neske in appreciation. “I wish him all the best for what comes next in his life, and I look forward to enjoying the same good cooperation with Gabriele Kellermann as she takes up her new role.”

Gabriele Kellermann has many years of experience in the banking industry. In her role as Deputy Chair of the Board of Managing Directors of BBBank, she is responsible for functions including Controlling, Finance, Internal Audit and Compliance. Kellermann was born in Karlsruhe and is 62 years old. She was appointed to LBBW’s Supervisory Board in May 2020 and is a member of the Risk Committee and the Audit Committee. She is also a member of the Supervisory Board of L-Bank.

Gabriele Kellermann commented: “Being elected as Chair of the Supervisory Board is both a great honor and a great commitment. After many years as a member of LBBW’s Supervisory Board and its committees, I am looking forward to the opportunity to contribute my experience in this new role. I am particularly keen to ensure constructive, trust-based cooperation with the Board of Managing Directors and within the Supervisory Board. This will help us to lay the foundations for continued success in the future.”

About LBBW

LBBW is a mittelstand-minded universal bank and a central bank for the savings banks in Baden-Württemberg, Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate. With total assets of EUR 356 billion and approximately 10,800 employees, LBBW is one of the largest banks in Germany. Its core activities include business with corporate customers, especially SMEs, and business with private customers and savings banks. It also focuses on real estate and project finance in selected markets and customer-oriented capital markets business with banks, savings banks and institutional investors. SMEs and private customers in Baden-Württemberg as well as wealth management clients are served under the BW-Bank brand. In addition to its expertise in innovative and complex forms of investment and financing, support for tapping international markets plays a key role. LBBW operates at 16 locations in 15 countries around the world. Specialized subsidiaries in areas such as leasing, factoring, real estate, commercial direct investment business, venture capital and asset management complement the LBBW Group’s range of in-house services.

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