



Goodbye for now

Dutch moving industry veteran Cees Kiesewetter retires at the end of 2016. We look back on his achievements and ask the key question – will he be back?

Cees Kiesewetter has retired from the moving industry, in which he has worked since the age of 16. He was owner of The Netherlands-based Noble Mobility group, which includes four FIDI Affiliates – KHZ International Movers (Amsterdam), De Gruijter & Co Royal Dutch Moving Company (Zoeterwoude), Meyer Moving (Willemstad, Curaçao, with affiliated Branches in Sint Maarten and Bonaire) and Passies International Movers (Utrecht),

Kiesewetter's career in moving began immediately after he left school, when he started working for his father – mainly offshore, for the Dutch Marines and Navy. He travelled throughout Europe by truck, mainly to the UK, and remembers the tough conditions at the time – and the lack of tools that are now commonly available to moving companies. Back then, most infrastructures were challenging and the distances significant, making travelling harder.

After taking over his father's moving company, Kiesewetter realised he needed to expand to maintain the firm's contracts with the military. Being a small-sized, local company, he would not have the resources to keep the contracts, and clients were looking for suppliers and partners that were working on a bigger scale.

So Kiesewetter bought FIDI Affiliate KHZ International Movers, formerly known as Koetsier Hekman van Zutphen – and acquired the resources he needed to continue bidding on the contracts he had, as well as to expand the business.

At that time, KHZ worked mainly for corporate customers, as well as for the US government.

He also acquired XL Pack, a non-FIDI company – working mainly on specialised packing of commodities – situated in the same location as KHZ.

Fast forward to 2000, and Kiesewetter purchased Royal de Gruijter. This Dutch moving company offered the opportunity to enter the high-end market – as well as to work for some high-quality corporate accounts and niche markets, as Royal De Gruijter Art & Orchestra logistics were added to the portfolio.

Knowing the strategic importance of the Caribbean for Dutch government contracts, Kiesewetter acquired Meyer Moving Willemstad, in Curaçao, shortly afterwards. Meyer was then owned by one of the original founders of KHZ. In subsequent years, the (non-FIDI) branches of Bonaire and Sint Maarten were added to Meyer. During this period, Kiesewetter also started and chaired partnerships such as Nedvan Mobility Solutions and Greenshields & Partners, which are not FIDI Affiliates.

The next piece of the jigsaw came with the purchase of Utrecht-based company Passies International Movers – one of the best-known brands in the consumer moving and office relocation markets.

Noble Mobility, was named as the holding company and all the firms were put under one umbrella, indicating the group's ability to deliver full mobility services, with worldwide move management and destination service provider (DSP) services as the main focus. The four businesses each concentrate on different areas and/or markets, have their own visions and expansion strategies, and are well-known FIDI companies. KHZ and De Gruijter are also OMNI members.

When asked what he is most proud of in his career, Kiesewetter cites his more than 50 years of work for the Dutch government.

Maarten van Zutphen, Director of Noble Mobility Group, said: 'Well-known for his "out of the box" thinking, Cees always realised that without providing exceptional quality one would never survive. He is proud to have four FIDI companies with a FAIMPLUS certificate and one of the first in the industry to achieve the latest ISO 9001:2015 certification.'

'Cees lives in Spain, and only time will tell if he really will quit working. People rarely retire from the industry without somewhere – sometime – returning in another role... but he is happy to be spending more time with his family.'



Calling time on a long career: Cees Kiesewetter



Cees with his wife Carla and (centre) industry veteran Hans Martens, formerly of AMJ Campbell



Cees Kiesewetter joined the family firm straight from school

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