

Jean Desazars de Montgailhard

Special Adviser of LafargeHolcim General Manager



Born in 1952, Jean Desazars de Montgailhard is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (E.N.A.) and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Paris (France). He also holds a Master Degree in Economics.

He started his career at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he specialized in multilateral negotiations, defence issues and arms control. He took part in major multilateral negotiations on arms control, served as a diplomat in Washington D.C., and at the central Government, where he became the head of arms control. During his tenure, the treaty on conventional weapons limitation in Europe and the treaty banning chemical weapons worldwide were signed.

In 1989, when the Soviet Union disappeared, he was asked by the Lafarge chairman to join the Lafarge group, in order to contribute to its international development. He got familiar with the business as Vice President Strategic Planning and Development, a position which he occupied first in Paris (France), then in Spain, where he subsequently became Vice President Sales and Marketing in 1992.

From 1996 to 2006, Jean Desazars de Montgailhard became Regional President for Asia Pacific, based in Singapore, then in Paris. He played a major role in the Group's development in Asia (acquisitions in India, China, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, etc...) as well as in Africa (notably in Eastern Africa).

In 2006, Bruno Lafont became C.E.O. of Lafarge and created the position of Executive Vice President, Strategy, Development and M&A, reporting to him. Jean Desazars de Montgailhard was appointed to this position, the scope of which was subsequently enlarged to include Public Affairs and Sustainable Development. As such, Jean Desazars de Montgailhard is responsible for a permanent review of the Group's strategy, its business portfolio and its key areas of development as well as for M&A. As such, he engineers and conducts the Group's main transactions, such as the acquisition of Orascom, which provided Lafarge with a leadership position in the Middle East, as well as the ambitious divestment program which, in the last 5 years, delivered close to 16 billion of Euros of divestments, including the ones rendered compulsory by the announced merger of Lafarge and Holcim. Jean Desazars is also in charge of assessing all planned investments of more than 25M€ and proposes a priority list amongst them.

During this time, Jean Desazars de Montgailhard is a member of the Executive Committee of Lafarge.

Since the merger between Lafarge and Holcim for which he played a major role, Jean Desazars is Special Adviser to the Group CEO.

He is also a Director of Coe-Rexecode (France), French-American Foundation France as well as of various Lafarge subsidiaries (India, China, Japan, etc...).

He is passionate about arts - both classical and contemporary - and cultures, and is a painter and sculptor during his free time.

He is decorated in the French order of the Legion of Honor.

Jean Desazars is trilingual in french, english and spanish.

He is married with 3 children.

