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Preface

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In this issue of the BHM Berg- und Hüttenmännische Monatshefte, selected articles of the 7th European Coke and Iron-making Congress ECIC 2016 are published. The Congress took place in Linz from September 12 to 14, 2016. It brought together 330 experts coming from a wide range, from plant operation, plant suppliers, and research institutes, sharing expertise in:

- Coke making
- Iron ore production and handling
- Sintering
- Pelletising
- Blast furnace iron making
- Direct reduction
- Smelting reduction
- Environmental control in iron making
- CO₂ reduction and energy saving
- Recycling of in-plant residues

The European Coke and Iron Making Conference ECIC 2016 focused on the core issues of these parts of the industrial production chain. The scientific and technological goal was to present the state of the art of theoretical, experimental, and numerical techniques (and their combination) capable of improving the competitiveness of modern production facilities. We hope that the readers of this issue of the BHM get an impression of the diversity, quality, and timeliness of technical and scientific topics dealt with in the ECIC 2016.

As organisers we are proud to have been able to put together a unique meeting, by adding the flare of the industrial centre of Linz to high quality science. We felt the conference was characterised by a stimulating and dynamic atmosphere and provided the conditions for an effective dialogue and exchange of ideas and insights. Many topics

were covered, and the presenters did an outstanding job of sharing their expertise.

We are extremely gratified that the conference attracted such a large number of authors and delegates from several countries: it confirmed an increasing willingness to respond with a proactive attitude against the difficult economic situation in the iron and steel industry, seeking opportunities to meet, exchange, and learn from each other. We are honoured to have sound scientific contributions covering various disciplines in all aspects of development, production technology in cokemaking and ironmaking, with approaches ranging from experimental processes to numerical modelling and simulation.

We would like to give once again special thanks to all our sponsors for their support and to all members of the Scientific Committee for their commitment. We would also like to express our special gratitude to all speakers, chairpersons, and participants. All parties involved have jointly made it possible for us to stage such an international event. Finally, we also want to express our immense gratitude to Melanie Baumgartner and her team for all their professional work in the conference organisation; without their support and kindness, this conference would not have been possible.

We are certain that the papers presented at the ECIC 2016 will enable us to make a significant contribution towards the sustainable development of the coke and ironmaking industry.

Johannes Schenk, Scientific Chairman
 Bruno Hribernik, Organisation Chairman

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