



**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FilSpec announces the launch of its commercial activities in Europe  
with Canadian and Quebecois dignitaries**

*FilSpec, a Sherbrooke-based company, is reinforcing its European presence by opening its first office on the continent, in Belgium. Ronald Audet, Chairman of the Board of Directors and company founder, made the announcement today as part of a networking event organized by the Chamber of Commerce Canada-Belgium-Luxembourg.*

**SHERBROOKE, April 11, 2019** - Following the opening of its offices announced last December with the Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Nadine Girault, Quebec company FilSpec, a global leader in high-performance textile yarn manufacturing, launched its commercial activities in Europe with Olivier Nicoloff, the Ambassador of Canada to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Grégoire Diamant, the Director of Bilateral and Public Affairs for the Québec Government Office in Brussels, in attendance of a networking event at the Musée de la Lys et du Lin, today.

The new Belgian office will enable FilSpec, the 29<sup>th</sup> top SME in Quebec, to continue its commercial development in the European market. With 90% of its merchandise being exported abroad, FilSpec's presence in Belgium is the newest of several international offices and production sites, located in the United States, Mexico and El Salvador.

FilSpec President Eric Perlinger, who has been very involved in the development of the company's international markets, expressed his pride in the accomplishment: "With the new office in Belgium, FilSpec is spreading its expertise to many new markets and continuing its international development. We are keeping our headquarters in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and I hope that we will inspire other Quebec companies to conquer international markets. We are looking to the future with confidence. In two years, FilSpec will have additional locations in Colombia, Turkey and Japan, all while maintaining lasting collaborative relationships with local players," Mr. Perlinger explained.

Olivier Nicoloff, the Ambassador of Canada to Belgium and Luxembourg, attended the event and was delighted to see FilSpec's expertise deployed in Europe.

"Canadian entrepreneurs are constantly innovating and developing cutting-edge products, technology and services. The Trade Commissioner Service is always ready to support them in their efforts on the international stage. I am thrilled to see FilSpec set its sights on Europe through its new Belgian office. With its world-class logistics infrastructure, its long manufacturing expertise and its rich tradition of openness, Belgium is an ideal partner for Canada."

Michel Audet, Quebec's delegate general in Brussels, was happy to see the bilateral economic relationship between Belgium and Quebec reinforced by the presence of FilSpec in Belgium. He underscored FilSpec's collaborative integration into the Belgian market.

"We are proud to put the network of Quebec delegations at the disposal of innovative companies like FilSpec, who become examples of success by developing their business in international

markets. Their collaboration with Belgium confirms the quality of their high-performance textiles and their ability to adapt to the specific needs of the European market," Mr. Audet affirmed.

Present during the opening of the company's European offices last December, the Québec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Nadine Girault outlined the success of the corporation.

"I was delighted to take part in the opening of Quebec company FilSpec's European office last December. The launch of activities today is an example of success and ambition: the company continues to expand into international markets. As Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, I am proud of these Quebec companies daring to innovate and that pursue the constant goal of conquering foreign markets," said Nadine Girault, Quebec's minister of International Relations and La Francophonie.

The Chamber of Commerce Canada-Belgium-Luxembourg Chairman (CanCham BeLux), Mr. JP Tanghe, shared his pride towards seeing Belgium host the European commercial activities of the company.

"CanCham BeLux, short for Chamber of Commerce Canada – Belgium – Luxembourg, is proud to be able to assist FilSpec in reinforcing its presence in Europe by setting up activities in Belgium. CanCham BeLux looks forward to continue helping Canadian companies in setting up profitable businesses and partnerships in Belgium and Luxembourg." Has declared Mr. Tanghe

During the announcement, Dominique Quintal, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at FilSpec, emphasized the importance of focusing on innovation and an integrated circular economy in an environmentally responsible ecosystem within the textile industry, with the goal of positively and sustainably transforming the industry in different regions of the world. He reiterated FilSpec's commitment to sustainability, one example of which is the company's creation of branded bags in collaboration with Teenah, a start-up company that has Syrian refugee women making reusable cotton bags.

For the last few years, FilSpec has been turning the textile world upside-down with its modern innovative vision, which stands in opposition to the more traditional economic sector that has been suffering from instability in the last few years.

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## **About FilSpec**

For almost 65 years, FilSpec has adapted to the changes and upheavals of the North American textile industry. FilSpec's two factories produce a great variety of technical textile yarns that are used in manufacturing for the military, medical, industrial, sports and smart textile sectors, among others. This Sherbrooke-based company is the 29<sup>th</sup> top SME in Quebec. A global leader in high-performance technical textile yarn manufacturing, it now exports 90% of its merchandise to Latin America, Europe and Asia. FilSpec has over 300 employees, over half of whom still work at the Sherbrooke factory. The company's turnover is now \$50 million. By 2020, FilSpec is planning to open offices in Turkey (2019), Colombia (2020) and Japan (2020).

**Source: FilSpec**

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