

**A return-ticket to the crisis**

*(Welt am Sonntag, February 7, 2010)*

According to the weekly Welt am Sonntag, Dr. Axel C. Heitmann, chairman of the board of management of LANXESS AG, currently is in the same position as short time before the outbreak of the financial crisis in September 2008: Expansion is the most important corporate goal. The newspaper describes in detail how LANXESS mastered the global economic crisis thanks to successful solutions and new alliances. Both the employers' and the employees' side had cooperated very well, subordinating their interests to the ones of the company. In addition to this, Heitmann thinks that flexible labor-time management is a decisive factor. In autumn 2008, he set up a crisis squad, which developed diverse scenarios on how to react to drops in demand. To Heitmann it is of particular importance that he was present in the crisis and that he always informed employees about the state of affairs. The newspaper thinks that these experiences and reactions could give the company a competitive edge.