

Von Wobeser hires former German ambassador in advisory role

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Mexico's Von Wobeser y Sierra SC has hired the former German ambassador to Mexico, Edmund Duckwitz, as of counsel, where he will advise clients on economic relations with Europe.



Duckwitz, 65, joined the firm on Tuesday, in a flexi-time role which will see him advise both European clients interested in entering Mexico as well as local companies looking to Europe. Although he is a German-qualified lawyer, he will primarily provide strategic advice.

While acting as ambassador to Mexico, a key part of Duckwitz's role involved promoting economic relations between the two countries. "I'm very happy that over the last four years we were able to attract quite a few important investments from Germany into Mexico," he says. Key among these has been the entry of a number of German car manufacturers into the country, including Audi, Porsche and Mercedes, which have sought to use Mexico as a low-cost base to tap into both the US and Latin American car markets.

The most recent example of the trend is BMW's announcement earlier in the week of a new car factory in San Luis Potosí, which Von Wobeser is advising on. According to partner Claus Von Wobeser, the firm will be busy advising the carmaker in the run-up to the plant becoming operational in 2019, a project in which Duckwitz will be heavily involved, particularly to handle political relations with the municipal government.

Von Wobeser has a strong German practice and regularly represents German clients in Mexico. Claus Von Wobeser is chairman of the Mexican-German Chamber of Commerce, and regularly invited Duckwitz to board meetings, as well as collaborating on several client issues, including a large German company which had a legal issue with a Mexican government agency. The pair also became socially acquainted through embassy cocktail parties. "He's highly qualified, he's an attorney for one, and secondly he knows German industry quite well, he knows Mexico and Latin America very well, and he's very respected in all business circles in Mexico," explains Von Wobeser of the hire.

In addition to serving as ambassador to Mexico for the last four years, Duckwitz has also previously been ambassador to the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, as well as acting as Germany's permanent representative to NATO and the European Union. Although he has only four years of direct experience working with Mexico, Duckwitz says he chose to accept an offer to join Von Wobeser following his retirement from the German diplomatic service given the country's high potential and good prospects for the short to medium-term future.

Comments

There are currently no comments.
