

# Wehkamp Retail Group CEO Graham Harris to Retire after Six Years at the Helm.



Zwolle, February 12 2025 - Wehkamp Retail Group today announces that Graham Harris, CEO since 2019, will retire at the end of the company's financial year in March 2025.

"What began as a six-month interim role unexpectedly evolved into a fulfilling six-year journey at the helm of Wehkamp." said Harris. "Leading this business has been an immensely rewarding experience, and I am proud of what we have achieved together. Wehkamp holds a special place in the hearts of Dutch shoppers and over these years, it has become part of my DNA as well."

He added, "As I retire back to the U.K., I look forward to spending more time with my family and, in due course, taking on select advisory roles where I can share the insights I've gained over my 40-year career in retail. The company is in a strong position for the future, and I am confident it will continue to thrive under new leadership."

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## Leadership Transition in Progress

Wehkamp Retail Group has been preparing for this leadership transition over the past year and after an extensive search process, expects to announce Harris' successor in the coming weeks.

# Transforming Wehkamp Retail Group for a Stronger, Multi-Fascia Future

Since joining Wehkamp in early 2019, Harris led the company back to profitability and spearheaded its transformation into a multi-fascia, e-commerce-driven business.

Today, the business operates under the Wehkamp, kleertjes.com and Union River fascias, all integrated on an advanced technology platform and supported by a single, large-scale, highly automated warehouse in Zwolle.

The transformation of the business over the last few years has also included exiting from its credit lending heritage and from the highly competitive electricals category, whilst simultaneously investing in new growth of Private label Brands such as CoolCat and growing the Home and Beauty categories. Wehkamp is as relevant to its millions of loyal Dutch shoppers today as it has been for the past 73 years.

# A Legacy of Stability and Growth

Since 2015, Wehkamp Retail Group has been part of Apax Partners. Tom Hall, Partner at Apax, expressed appreciation for Harris' contribution: "Graham started this role as interim CEO - which turned into six years where he has

restored the business to sound profitability, navigated Covid, rebuilt the senior leadership team and successfully integrated kleertjes.com".

John Browett, Chair of the Supervisory Board of Wehkamp Retail Group, commented: "No-one could have been more tenacious in their pursuit of the success of the business, and on behalf of Wehkamp Retail Group, Apax, and the Supervisory Board I thank Graham for his vision, dedication, and tireless commitment. We wish him all the best in this next chapter and a well-earned reunion with his family and friends."



### **About Graham Harris**

Graham Harris was appointed CEO of the Wehkamp Retail Group in April 2019. He has broad and deep retail experience, gained across seven large-scale retail businesses including Tesco and Arcadia in the UK. He has operated at Board level within a variety of CEO, Commercial, Operational and Financial roles over the past 25 years.

**End press release** 

#### For more information

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### About Wehkamp Retail Group

Wehkamp Retail Group is a Dutch e-commerce company with a multi-fascia strategy, operating several strong brands: **Wehkamp**, **kleertjes.com** and **Union River**. These brands share the same advanced technological platform and benefit from the fully automated distribution center in Zwolle. Each year, the group serves approximately 2.5 million customers in the Netherlands and Belgium.

What started in 1952 as a mail-order company has grown into one of the Netherlands' first major online retailers. Since 1995, the focus has been on e-commerce. With the acquisition of kleertjes.com in 2021 and the launch of Union River in 2022, Wehkamp Retail Group has evolved into a technology-driven e-commerce organization with a curated and inspiring product offering.

[union river]

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