

PRESS INFO

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our owner, Klaus-Michael Kühne

Schindellegi (CH), August 24, 2026 – It is with deep sorrow, but also with great gratitude, that we — also on behalf of his wife Christine Kühne — bid farewell to Klaus-Michael Kühne, an extraordinary entrepreneur, visionary, and generous philanthropist whose work has had a lasting impact on the business world. He passed away at the age of 89.

Klaus-Michael Kühne not only transformed the family-owned company Kühne+Nagel into a global, publicly traded corporation, but was also an inspiring leader who set the standard until the very end with his foresight, determination, and tireless dedication.

This is also reflected in the development of Kühne Holding AG, with its entrepreneurial investment portfolio, which, in addition to Kühne+Nagel, includes significant shareholdings in Hapag-Lloyd, Lufthansa, Brenntag, Flix, and Aenova.

His entrepreneurial brilliance, willpower, and tireless pursuit of excellence set standards that will continue to have a lasting impact. This, combined with a deep sense of responsibility toward employees, partners, and society, made him an outstanding individual.

Kühne Holding AG

P.O. Box 67
CH - 8834 Schindellegi
Schweiz

Requests:
Dominique Nadelhofer

Tel. +41 79 128 03 27
dominique.nadelhofer
@kuehne-holding.com

With his passing, we lose not only an extraordinary entrepreneur, but also a person whose integrity and values will always serve as a model for us. The Kühne Foundation, a nonprofit organization he founded in 1976, is primarily dedicated to promoting education, continuing education, research, and scholarship in the fields of logistics and transportation. In addition, it is actively involved in humanitarian logistics and select medical projects. Since 2023, the foundation has also been making a significant impact in climate protection and supporting renowned festivals, opera houses, and concert halls in various European countries.

His legacy is a call to responsibility, innovation, and social engagement. His life's work will live on in the ideas, achievements, and hopes that his work has inspired.

Karl Gernandt: «We have lost a distinguished figure and role model, and carrying on his life's work will remain our ongoing mission. His values and his understanding of the special responsibility of an entrepreneur will also shape the future direction of Kühne Holding AG.»

Our deepest sympathies go out to his dear wife and all those who were close to him. His spirit and vision will live on in our work.