

PRESS RELEASE
10 March 2008

EuropeanIssuers: The First Pan European Issuers Association
Issuer-shareholder relation priority number one

A general assembly of leading listed companies and national associations, meeting in Brussels on 6 March, approved the creation of “EuropeanIssuers”, the first pan European organisation to promote the interests of issuing companies. EuropeanIssuers is the result of the decision, taken just weeks ago, by EALIC, the European Association of Listed Companies, and UNIQUE, the Union of Issuers Quoted in Europe, to join forces.

EuropeanIssuers represents the vast majority of publicly quoted companies in Europe. Its members are national associations and companies from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. These markets count some 9,200 listed companies with a combined market value of some € 8,500 billion.

The members of EuropeanIssuers come from various sectors including the automotive business, nutrition, energy, publishing, health care, luxury goods, construction, financial services and many more. What brings them together in EuropeanIssuers is that they are all owned by the public. Jacques Schraven, chairman of EuropeanIssuers, says: *“The fact that these companies attract money from the market – as their securities are traded on stock exchanges and alternative markets across Europe - makes them subject to an impressive set of complex and stringent rules and regulations. Through EuropeanIssuers listed companies can engage in direct discussions with the decision makers at European, trans-Atlantic and global level.”* Typical areas of interest include shareholder rights, corporate governance, clearing and settlement as well as financial reporting and auditing. EuropeanIssuers will benefit from the expertise and experience in these fields of EALIC founded in 2002 and UNIQUE founded in 2003.

EuropeanIssuers’ priority will be to promote more transparency in the shareholder base. Knowing their shareholders will enable issuers to have a sound and permanent dialogue with the person who has a genuine, economic interest in the affairs of the company, the end investor. EuropeanIssuers will also actively contribute to the set up of efficient EU wide voting processes, together with the institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The cross-border aspect of today’s investments calls for adapted and harmonised procedures involving not only the issuer and the shareholder, but also the key actors of the securities industry *i.e.* custodians, investment banks, central securities depositories and stock exchanges.

In addition to Jacques Schraven, the Board of EuropeanIssuers will be presided by four vice chairmen: Jean-Martin Folz, chairman of AFEP, Luca Garavoglia, chairman of Davide Campari Milano, John Pierce, CEO of Quoted Companies Alliance, and Rüdiger von Rosen, managing director of Deutsches Aktieninstitut. The permanent secretariat of EuropeanIssuers is run by Dorien Fransens, secretary general.

Brussels, 10 March 2008

Jacques Schraven

Note to Editors

European**Issuers** promotes the interests of listed companies against the regulatory backdrop of the European Union. European**Issuers** was formed when EALIC and UNIQUE combined their organisations early 2008. The legal statute of European**Issuers** is that of an International Non Profit Association under Belgian law with registered seat in Brussels. European**Issuers** has its permanent secretariat in Brussels.

EALIC was created in 2002 as a non-profit association by three national associations representing listed companies, namely VEUE from the Netherlands and AFEP and ANSA from France. After two years, in January 2005, EALIC decided to set up a permanent office in Brussels with a full time experienced Secretary General and other staff. End December 2007, EALIC's member-base counted six national associations of listed companies, namely VEUE (Netherlands), ANSA and AFEP (France), ABSC-BVBV (Belgium), ASSONIME (Italy) and SEG (Poland) and some seventy leading publicly traded companies from these countries as well as from Portugal and Spain.

UNIQUE on the other hand was founded early 2003 as a network of national associations of listed companies. End December 2007, it grouped 9 associations from as many different European countries, who together represented the interests of c. 4,000 quoted companies (issuers) with more than 10.7 mill. employees and a capital stock of roughly 1,160 bill. € (Austria: Aktienforum; Bulgaria: Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association; Cyprus: SYDEK; Finland: Suomen PörssiäätiöFinnish (Foundation for Share Promotion); France: Middlednext; Germany: Deutsches Aktieninstitut e.V.; Greece: The Union of Listed Companies; Switzerland: SwissHoldings; United Kingdom: The Quoted Companies Alliance).

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List of national association members

COUNTRY	NAME ASSOCIATION	NAME CONTACT	FUNCTION IN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NR
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NETHERL.	VEUO	Rob PIETERSE	Chairman	c/o Tripolis Burgerweeshuispad 301 1076 HR AMSTERDAM	+31 20 57 71 433
POLAND	SEG - Association of Stock Exchange Issuers	Beata STELMACH	Chairwoman	ul. Nowy Świat 35 lok.9 00-029 WARSAW	+48 22 826 26 89
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List of company members

BELGIUM

Dexia, Fortis, Solvay, UCB

FRANCE

Atos Origin, BNP Paribas, Carbone Lorraine, Clarins Group, CLS Rémy Cointreau, Crédit Agricole, Eurotunnel, France Telecom, L'Air Liquide, L'Oréal, Lafarge, Lagardère, Michelin, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Saint-Gobain, Sanofi-Aventis, Société Générale, Suez, Total, Vallourec, Veolia Environnement, Vinci, Vivendi Universal.

ITALY

Assicurazioni Generali, Atlantia, Davide Campari-Milano, Edison, Enel, Eni, Fiat, Finmeccanica, Indesit Company, Italcementi, Marzotto, Mediobanca, RAS Holding, Intesa Sanpaolo SPA, Telecom Italia.

NETHERLANDS

Aegon, Akzo Nobel, ASML, CSM, DSM, Fugro, Kas Bank, Koninklijke Ahold, Koninklijke Grolsch, Nutreco, OPG, Philips, Reed Elsevier, Royal BAM Group, Royal Dutch Shell, RSDB, SBM Offshore, Unilever, Van der Moolen, Vopak, Wolters Kluwer.

PORTUGAL

Sonae

SPAIN

Telefonica
