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**Leaseurope welcomes the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association as a member**

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**BRUSSELS, 27 February 2009** – Leaseurope, the trade body representing leasing and automotive rental at European level, has welcomed the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA) as a member. The Federation now comprises 46 member associations in 34 European countries, all sharing one voice in Brussels.

“With an ever-increasing tide of EU legislation we decided that membership of Leaseurope was an investment we had to make in order to protect our members’ interests. Leaseurope has an important profile in the European arena and provides strong representation across our three sectors of membership – leasing, rental and commercial vehicles,” said BVRLA Chief Executive, John Lewis.

“As we continue to lobby the relevant EU authorities on issues including security, cross border rental and fleet renewal, we need to make sure our industry and its concerns are taken into account. With its high profile and expertise in vehicle rental and leasing, the BVRLA’s active participation is very positive news for Leaseurope” commented Leaseurope Director General, Tanguy van de Werve.

Leaseurope Chair Rüdiger von Fölkersamb concluded: “The challenges ahead are numerous; yet by joining forces the European leasing and automotive rental industry is in a better position to face them. I am looking forward to the valuable contribution the BVRLA will bring as a very active member in the European policy-shaping process.”

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**About Leaseurope**

As a Federation, Leaseurope brings together associations throughout Europe representing either the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. The scope of products covered by Leaseurope members ranges from hire purchase and finance leases to operating leases of all asset types (automotive, equipment and real estate) and also includes the rental of cars, vans and trucks. It is estimated that Leaseurope represents approximately 93% of the European leasing market.

In 2007, new leasing volumes worth €340 billion were granted by the firms represented through Leaseurope members, a 13% increase compared to 2006. Together, these firms finance around 20% of all European investment (excluding investment in private dwellings). Moreover, they are responsible for the leasing and rental of some 17 million vehicles throughout Europe.