



**LEASEUROPE**

For Immediate Release

**John Bennett appointed new Chairman of Leaseurope\* by acclamation**

BRUSSELS – 12 October 2007 - Appointed Chairman of Leaseurope by the General Assembly last week, John Bennett said in his inaugural speech that one of his key priorities during his mandate will be “the promotion of the leasing and automotive rental industries as major contributors to the European economy. With new investments in excess of 297.5 billion euros in 2006 alone, these sectors are certainly a force to be reckoned with.”

J. Bennett also said that he would “continue Leaseurope’s efforts to preserve the integrity of leasing and automotive rental activities in exchanges with the EU, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS), and other international institutions. Through real team work and a reinforced cooperation with our member national associations, I am confident that we will remain the best interlocutor of the industries we represent on the European scene.”

J. Bennett’s two-year appointment as Chair comes at a time the Federation enjoys unprecedented support from its member associations, including its newer members from Ecatra, who decided to join forces with Leaseurope over a year ago, for a united representation of the leasing and automotive rental sectors at European level. “We are grateful for the support of our new members and their active commitment in Leaseurope’s Committees and Steering Groups work. I will personally endeavour to continue to support the changes required to further strengthen our new organization”, to add J. Bennett.

“With the many challenges ahead, I know that we can rely on the strong support and dynamism of Leaseurope’s Committees, the Board and a re-energized Leaseurope Secretariat in Brussels to get things done”, he concluded.

John Bennett, a UK national, is currently Managing Director of Global Vendor Finance (EMEA) at the Bank of America. He has over 25 years of experience in key sectors of the leasing market. John Bennett is a Board member of the UK’s Finance and Leasing Association. In 2004, he became a member of Leaseurope’s Executive Board and last year was appointed Vice-Chairman. His commitment towards Leaseurope’s activities was rightly recognised by his peers when he was elected by acclamation at the General Assembly last week. John Bennett is taking over from Jean-Marc Mignerey, CEO of SG Equipment Finance.

- End -

**Leaseurope, the European Federation of Leasing Company Associations**, is composed of 48 Member Associations in 34 countries. It represents as an umbrella body the European leasing and automotive rental industries. In 2006, its leasing members accounted for 92% of the European leasing market. In April 2006, the Federation integrated short and long term car and truck renters into its membership base. It now represents around 8 500 companies across Europe employing over 200 000 people. During the course of 2006, the companies represented via Leaseurope financed in excess of 297.5 billion euros of new investments in vehicles, equipment and real estate with the portfolio of leasing contracts reaching more than 630 billion euros. The countries represented are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

**Contact:**

Tanguy van de Werve  
Director General  
[t.vandewerve@leaseurope.org](mailto:t.vandewerve@leaseurope.org)

Anne Valette  
Head of Communications  
[a.valette@leaseurope.org](mailto:a.valette@leaseurope.org)

**Leaseurope – Shaping the future of the leasing and automotive rental industries at European level**