



LEASEUROPE

European Federation of Leasing Company Associations

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For Immediate release

First Anniversary of Leaseurope's Automotive Steering Group Marked by appointment of New Chair

BRUSSELS - 12 October 2007 – Arval's Vincent Rupied succeeds Mike Sells from Scania as Chair of Leaseurope's Automotive Steering Group.

Vincent Rupied, of French nationality, is currently International Director of Corporate Relations at Arval. He has held a number of managing positions in the automotive operating leasing sector over the years, notably in Spain, Germany, Austria and France. He is also the International Director of the Corporate Vehicle Observatory for Germany. Vincent Rupied became a member of Leaseurope's Automotive Steering Group last year and was subsequently appointed co-chair of Leaseurope's Working Group on environmental taxation. "Vincent Rupied's international experience and strong commitment to the European leasing industry makes him extremely well-qualified for the role as Chair of the ASG," said Mike Sells, the outgoing Chair of the group.

The Automotive Steering Group was founded in order to respond to the specific needs of Leaseurope's automotive leasing members, as well as the new automotive rental members soon after the integration with ECATRA (European Car and Truck Rental Association) in 2006. The Steering Group is composed of executive level representatives of the vehicle leasing and rental sectors, including the long term and short term rental of cars and trucks. They act at a strategic level with the aim to steer the decisions and positions of Leaseurope in automotive matters.

Since its kick-off meeting in November 2006, the Automotive Steering Group has been the key interlocutor and partner of choice of EU and international institutions on all automotive leasing and rental industry issues. Among the latest achievements of the group are: drafting of a Code of Best Practices for the rent-a-car industry, addressing the issue of the implementation of the digital tachograph for internal trips of truck rental companies, strong involvement of the leasing and car rental industry in the debate on the reduction of CO2 emissions of professional cars, a clear Europe-wide position in favor of VAT Taxation in the country where service is delivered – contrary to cross border constructions - and the founding of a European-wide network intended for the exchange of automotive security related information and best practices.

"The Automotive Steering Group delivered good results in a number of matters within less than one year. Environmental and security issues can be expected to be important topics for some time still," said Vincent Rupied. "I am eager to lead this group through the next two years and I am confident that with the active contribution of all Leaseurope member associations and the increased capacities provided by the Leaseurope structure, we will further strengthen the representation at European level of the automotive (leasing and renting) industries", he added.

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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.

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