

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leaseurope welcomes a new member

BRUSSELS – 13 March 2008. Leaseurope has just welcomed the Leasing Committee of the Bank Association of Slovenia among its membership. The coming on board of this new member illustrates clearly that the long term approach of Leaseurope to expand eastwards continues to bear fruit and has led to a coverage incomparable in terms of geographical spread for a European Federation. The Federation now comprises 46 leasing and automotive rental associations in 34 European countries, all sharing the same voice in Brussels.

These past few months have seen a number of changes that have reshaped Leaseurope and its operation. The recent reorganization and enlargement of its Brussels office reflects a desire to have a more business-oriented structure focused on delivering more value to its members. This has already created new opportunities to network, build expertise, and engage with third parties. Leaseurope and its member Associations will certainly benefit from such a strong presence in Brussels given the challenges ahead.

Tanguy van de Werve, Director General of Leaseurope, commented: "I am delighted that the Slovenian leasing industry as represented by the Leasing Committee of the Bank Association of Slovenia has decided to join Leaseurope. This makes Leaseurope even more representative and credible, which is a strength in today's fast changing environment. The challenges ahead are numerous; yet by joining forces the European leasing and automotive rental industry is in a better position to face them."

Anton Romih, Chairman of the Leasing Committee of the Bank Association of Slovenia, added: "Having the Leasing Committee join Leaseurope is viewed as a very significant step for us. To become a part of Leaseurope was requested from all of our members, that is leasing companies which together represent an aggregated balance sheet of 3,858 billion EUR and share 78 % of the Slovenian leasing market. Slovenia is an EU member and Slovenian leasing companies are operating within the European business and legal framework. This partnership means gaining new experiences, representing common interests at European level and new business opportunities."

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Leaseurope is a European Federation representing leasing and automotive rental across Europe. It is composed of 46 Member Associations in 34 countries. 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. In 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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