

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CRIF and Grant Thornton UK LLP Join Leaseurope**

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**Brussels, 14 January 2015** – Leaseurope, the trade body representing the leasing and automotive rental industry in Europe, announces that **CRIF**, a global company specialising in the development and management of credit reporting, business information and decision support systems and **Grant Thornton UK LLP**, a leading financial and business adviser, have joined as its latest associate members.

**CRIF** was established in 1988 in Bologna (Italy), and has an international presence, operating over four continents (Europe, America, Africa and Asia), in the fields of development and management of credit reporting, business information and decision support systems.

CRIF is currently the leading group in continental Europe in the field of banking credit information and one of the main operators on an international level concerning integrated services for business & commercial information and for credit & marketing management. More than 3,100 banks and financial institutions all over the world use CRIF services on a daily basis.

Simone Capecchi, Director, Finance Corporate Italy & Western Europe at CRIF declared that “Joining Leaseurope as Associate Member will give us with the opportunity to have a better perspective of developments of the leasing market in order to contribute innovative solutions to Leaseurope and to its members in line with industry developments by consolidating the expertise that CRIF has accumulated in the Corporate segment worldwide.”

**Grant Thornton UK LLP** is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Limited, which is one of the world's leading financial services organisations, employing 38,500 people over 120 countries and achieves combined annual turnover of \$4.5bn.

Grant Thornton UK LLP has a sector focused team lead by Tarun Mistry, Partner. The team is partly composed of ex-industry individuals with deep sector knowledge. On joining, Tarun mentioned that “the associate membership of Leaseurope reflects Grant Thornton's strategy to expand its financial, operational, strategic and regulatory compliance advisory expertise in the leasing, asset finance and automotive sectors.” “This association with Leaseurope reflects the continued growth of the team as well as its commitment and focus on these three sectors across Europe; it will further solidify Grant Thornton UK LLP as the go to advisory firm in this market” he added.

Leaseurope's Chair Enrico Duranti stressed “the coming on board of CRIF and Grant Thornton UK LLP as associate members is fully in line with Leaseurope's road map, especially when it comes to developing special partnerships with players active in the leasing and automotive rental ecosystem. I believe these new partnerships will translate into more value added for our Federation and its members.”

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## **Media Contact**

For further information, please contact:

Anne Valette  
Head of Communications  
+32 2 778 05 65  
a.valette@leaseurope.org

## **Notes to editors**

### **About Leaseurope**

As a Federation, Leaseurope brings together 46 associations throughout Europe representing either the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. The scope of products covered by Leaseurope's 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 92% of the European leasing market. Find out more at [www.leaseurope.org](http://www.leaseurope.org).

### **More about CRIF**

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CRIF is the first Italian company to be registered as a Credit Rating Agency in the EU and provides evaluations on the creditworthiness of Italian companies based on the application of rigorous quantitative models as well as the expertise and professionalism of its Rating Department analysts and Rating Committee members. Find out more at [www.crif.com](http://www.crif.com)

### **More about Grant Thornton**

Grant Thornton is one of the world's leading organisations of independent assurance, tax and advisory firms. These firms help dynamic organisations unlock their potential for growth by providing meaningful, forward-thinking advice. Proactive teams led by approachable partners in these firms, use insights, experience and instinct to understand complex issues for privately owned, publicly listed and public sector clients and help them to find solutions. More than 35,000 Grant Thornton people, across over 100 countries, are focused on making a difference to clients, colleagues and the communities in which we live and work. The UK Grant Thornton member firm provides services to over 40,000 privately held businesses, public interest entities and individuals. It is led by more than 185 partners and employs more than 4,200 of the profession's brightest minds. Find out more at [www.grant-thornton.co.uk](http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk)