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**European Leasing Market in 2018
Preliminary data shows continued growth in new business volumes**

Brussels, 3 April 2019 – Leaseurope, the trade association representing the European leasing and automotive rental industries, has released the results of its preliminary survey of the European leasing market for 2018¹.

The preliminary data for 2018 shows that the leasing market recorded another year of growth, with a slight moderation compared to the high growth of 2014 to 2017. In 2018, total new business volumes increased by 7.3% compared to the previous year. The outstanding portfolio also did well, rising by 6.3% among the member associations reporting, reflecting the recent years of strong performance in the leasing industry.

Results vary somewhat by asset class, with real estate exhibiting weaker growth and equipment showing strong increases. Equipment leasing enjoyed a 9.8% rise, with geographical variations ranging from slight declines to double-digit growth. The real estate leasing market grew by 3.2%. New business volumes for vehicles expanded by 5.9% in 2018, a slightly lower result compared to the high performance of previous years. The new emissions standards which came into effect in 2018 are likely to be having an impact on this part of the leasing market as manufacturers and consumers adjust.

Commenting on the figures, Leaseurope's Senior Adviser in Statistics and Economic Affairs, Hayley McEwen said "In 2018 vehicle leasing was no longer the big driver of growth, but rather equipment leasing was the star of the show. Equipment leasing was the main booster of growth in most of Western Europe with the exception of France and Portugal. Overall equipment leasing growth continued to outperform total European equipment investment, which expanded by an estimated 5.8% in 2018.² When looking at the forecast for 2019 and 2020, it is clear that the expansion of recent years is not expected to continue at the same pace, with equipment investment envisioned to drop to 3.6%. Therefore, going forward it will be more important than ever for lessors to continue in their role as a key financier of European investment and supporter of economic growth."

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¹ Leaseurope will publish final, comprehensive figures for 2018 once its full Annual survey of Member Associations is complete in the coming months.

² European Commission, European Economic Forecast: Autumn 2018.

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About Leaseurope

As a Federation, Leaseurope brings together 45 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. Find out more at www.leaseurope.org.

Find out more about the benefits of leasing and its contribution to the EU economy in a [video clip](#) by Leaseurope.

The Member Associations taking part in the 2018 Preliminary Statistical Survey are:

Verband Österreichischer Leasing-Gesellschaften (AT), Bulgarian Association for Leasing (BG), Schweizerischer Leasingverband (CH), Czech Leasing and Finance Association (CZ), Bundesverband Deutscher Leasing (DE), Finans Og Leasing (DK), Estonian Leasing Association (EE), Asociación Española de Leasing y Renting (ES), Asociación Española de Renting de Vehículos – AER (ES), Association Française des Sociétés Financières (FR), Fédération Nationale des Loueurs de Véhicules (FR), Association of Greek Leasing Companies (GR), Hungarian Leasing Association (HU), Associazione Italiana Leasing (IT), Association of Lithuanian Banks – Leasing Committee (LT), Nederlandse Vereniging van Leasemaatschappijen (NL), Vereniging van Nederlandse Autoleasemaatschappijen (NL) Finansieringsselskaperes Forening (NO), Polish Leasing Association (PL), Associação Portuguesa de Leasing, Factoring e Renting (PT), United Leasing Association – ULA (RU), Associations of Swedish Finance Houses – AFINA (SE), Leasing Committee of the Banking Association of Slovenia (SI), Association of Leasing Companies of the Slovak Republic (SK), Turkish Association of Financial Institutions - AFI/FKB (TR), Auto Leasing and Rental Companies Association – Tokkder (TR), and Finance and Leasing Association (UK).