

The European Financial Markets Federation (EFMF)

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Please see foot of release for contact details

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Futures and Options Association (FOA) brings derivatives focus to the European Financial Markets Federation

(LONDON, UK) The European Financial Markets Federation (EFMF) is pleased to announce that the Futures and Options Association (FOA) has joined the Federation. The FOA joins five major national and international associations which are existing members of EFMF; Associazione Italiana Operatori Mercati dei Capitali (ASSIOM), the Euro Debt Market Association (AMTE), the European Securities Forum (ESF), the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and the National Securities Market Association (NSMA, Russia).

The addition of the FOA, a widely respected industry Association which plays a significant role in the representation of the derivatives market, to the roster of member organisations enhances the Federation's expertise and influence in this important and expanding market sector.

Anthony Belchambers, Chief Executive of the FOA, said: "Substantive progress towards the completion of a single financial services market in the EU, growing convergence in its regulation and the emergence of a more cost-efficient financial services 'passport' calls for greater trade association coordination. The establishment of the European Financial Markets Federation (EFMF) is a timely initiative and I believe that the FOA can deliver a strong commodity and financial derivatives focus to the work of the EFMF, which will sit well alongside its capital market agenda."

The Federation has highlighted the following issues for joint cooperation in 2007: clearing & settlement, bond market transparency and market information & education.

The EFMF will hold its first seminar on secondary market transparency for non-equity instruments in Paris on February 15. More details are available on http://www.icma-group.co.uk/content/events/efmf_paris_seminar.html

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Notes for Editors

1. European Financial Markets Federation (EFMF)

The EFMF was created in December 2005 with the objective of shaping the structure and form of closer co-operation between financial market associations with a European focus. Its primary objectives are:

- to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between participating associations in relation to matters of interest pertaining to the global capital and financial markets
- to consider ways in which the participating associations can co-operate in areas of common interest to their members (including but not limited to; regulatory, legal advocacy, education and the structure and form of any further co-operation)
- to consider other matters that are relevant to the global capital and financial markets that arise from time to time

The member organisations are the Associazione Italiana Operatori Mercati dei Capitali (ASSIOM), the Euro Debt Market Association (AMTE), the European Securities Forum (ESF), the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), the Futures and Options Association (FOA) and the National Securities Market Association (NSMA).

2. Futures and Options Association (FOA)

The FOA is an industry trade association for firms and institutions carrying on business in futures, options and other derivatives or which use such products in their business. Its principal role is to represent the interests of its members in the public and regulatory domain and deliver a wide range of support services to the membership.

The FOA fulfils this role by constructive liaison with regulators, government and other political and trade bodies at national, European and international levels; raising public awareness and understanding of the futures and options industry; producing standardised industry documentation, publications and guidelines; delivering training courses and workshops.

The FOA's membership includes banks and financial institutions, brokers, commodity trade houses, energy and power market participants, fund managers, exchanges/alternative trading systems and clearing houses, systems providers, lawyers, accountants and consultants.

In Brussels the FOA was a founder member of the European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum (EPFSF) and is an active member of the EPFSF Advisory Committee. In the United Kingdom the FOA initiated the establishment of an Associate Parliamentary Group (APG) on Wholesale Financial Markets and Services, which was registered at Westminster in December 2002. www.foa.co.uk

3. Contact details

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