

Press release

News from the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

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Please see foot of release for contact details

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release: immediate

ICMA welcomes eight new member firms

(London, UK) The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) is pleased to announce that it has recently welcomed eight international firms as new members of the Association. These new members join ICMA's diverse existing global membership representing capital market participants and other constituencies including asset managers, law firms, central banks, exchanges and professional advisors.

ICMA's new members are:

- Association des marches de Taux en Euro (AMTE), Paris
- Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, London
- Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, London
- IW Bank S.p.A., Milan
- JSB Gazprombank (CJSC), Moscow
- LCH.Clearnet, London
- Sidley Austin LLP, London
- White & Case LLP, London

According to Alexei Obozintsev, a deputy CEO of Gazprombank, ICMA membership is important from the standpoint of expansion of the international operations, planned by the bank.

John Burke, Director of Fixed Income, LCH.Clearnet said "The LCH.Clearnet Group is particularly pleased to be joining ICMA, which is a truly professional trade association with constituents and practitioners in the international capital market worldwide and where a significant number of our clearing members are being represented." He added, "This Associate ICMA Membership is an important step

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for LCH.Clearnet in terms of linking in to a centre of capital market expertise, that will undoubtedly benefit LCH.Clearnet and its members from the excellent services ICMA provide.”

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

1. International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

The International Capital Market Association is the self-regulatory organisation and trade association representing constituents and practitioners in the international capital market worldwide. ICMA's members are located in 48 countries across the globe, including all the world's main financial centres, and currently number some 400 firms in total.

ICMA performs a central role in the market by providing and enforcing a self-regulatory code of industry-driven rules and recommendations which regulate issuance, trading and settlement in international fixed income and related instruments. ICMA liaises closely with regulatory and governmental authorities, both at the national and supranational level, to ensure that financial regulation promotes the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the capital market.

ICMA is unique amongst financial industry associations in that it represents a broad range of capital market interests, its members include both global investment banks and smaller regional banks, as well as asset managers, exchanges, central banks, law firms and other professional advisers, making it an influential voice for the global market.

www.icmagroup.org

2. New members

Association des marches de Taux en Euro (AMTE) created in July 2002, has established its central role as an international forum for exchange and a means of articulating the collective voice of the euro-denominated fixed income and derivatives markets. www.amte-euro.com

Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP is a full service City of London law firm with around 650 lawyers, including more than 150 lawyers devoted to the finance practice. The firm has offices in Brussels, Paris and Singapore and a unique panel of full service independent law firms in 55 countries around the world providing its clients with access to the best resources available for any transaction. www.blplaw.com

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP is a leading international law firm with approximately 950 lawyers and 12 closely integrated offices located in major financial centres around the world. For more than 60 years, the firm has been pre-eminent in shaping the globalization of the legal profession. The firm's worldwide practice has a proven track record for innovation and providing work of the highest quality to meet the domestic and international needs of its clients. For decades, Cleary Gottlieb lawyers have played an instrumental role in the most significant advances in the capital markets and have developed many of the techniques that now routinely drive capital raising transactions. www.cgsh.com

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IW Bank S.p.A. is part of UBI Banca Group, the fourth largest banking Group in Italy. It supplies integrated online financial services. www.iwbank.it

JSB Gazprombank (CJSC) is the authorized bank of OAO "Gazprom" and enters the top three Russia's banks with regard to its main financial indices. Besides the gas industry, Gazprombank currently renders banking services to enterprises and employees of other real sector industries (chemical, engineering, defense, and other industries). The Bank's client base consists of approximately 2 million retail clients and 40 000 corporate clients, including 1000 enterprises and institutions of the gas industry. www.gazprombank.ru/

LCH.Clearnet is currently owned 67.6% by users, 17.8% by exchanges with the balance of 14.6% being held by Euroclear. Upon completion of the Euronext share buy-back programme by 2009, the Group will be owned 73.3% by users, 10.9% by exchanges and 15.8% by Euroclear. LCH.Clearnet is committed to operating under strict principles of non-discrimination across its user base. LCH.Clearnet serves major international exchanges and platforms, equity, exchange-traded derivatives, energy, interbank interest rate swaps markets and the majority of the Euro-denominated and sterling bond and repo markets. www.lchclearnet.com

Sidley Austin LLP is one of the world's largest law firms. Consistently ranked among the leading capital markets firms by the Thomson Financial league tables, for 2006, the firm was ranked number one issuer's counsel for U.S. debt, equity and equity-related deals, with \$374.1 billion in deal value and a market share of 10.7%, and number three as underwriter's counsel in the same category, with \$257.3 billion in deal value and a market share of 7.2%. The 2006 European Capital Markets Review ranked the firm number one issuer legal advisor for International Debt and number four manager legal advisor for International Debt. In addition, every year since 2003, Sidley has been named to Legal Business' Global Elite, their designation for "the 15 finest law firms in the world." www.sidley.com

White & Case LLP is a leading global law firm with more than 2,100 lawyers in 35 offices in 23 countries. Among the first US-based law firms to establish a truly global presence, we provide counsel and representation in virtually every area of law that affects cross-border business. Our clients value both the breadth of our network and depth of our US, English and local law capabilities in each of our offices and rely on us for their complex cross-border transactions, arbitration and litigation. Whether in established or emerging markets, the hallmark of White & Case is our complete dedication to the business priorities and legal needs of our clients. www.whitecase.com

3. Contact details for further information

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