



I S M A

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES MARKET ASSOCIATION

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

ISMA/2001/01

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International stage set for ISMA annual conference

Highlights and media attendance arrangements for ISMA 33rd Annual General Meeting and Conference June 6 – 8, 2001, Luxembourg

(LONDON, UK) MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES are invited to attend the 33rd Annual General Meeting and Conference of the International Securities Market Association (ISMA), to be held from June 6 – 8 at the Société des Foires Internationales de Luxembourg. With its major role as a prominent international financial centre and home to EU's largest concentration of banks and investment funds, Luxembourg is a particularly appropriate venue for this year's event.

Formal proceedings will begin with ISMA's general meeting on the morning of Thursday, June 7. Following the AGM, ISMA has invited a panel of senior market figures to discuss and debate the future role of investment banks in the process of securities issuance – a potentially controversial topic for ISMA member firms, given the increasing opportunities for issuers to interact directly with investors. This year's panel promises to promote a lively and engaging discussion.

The ISMA Conference takes place on Friday morning, June 8. ISMA's line-up of speakers for the event will provide a contemporary overview of market and economic trends, including a discussion on the way forward for regulation of financial markets in the EU - an issue of particular interest to the cross-border trading environment in which ISMA's members conduct their business.

Speakers confirmed for 2001 are as follows:

Luc Frieden, Minister of Budget and Minister of Justice, Luxembourg

Karel Lannoo, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels

The Rt. Hon. John Major CH, MP, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Yves Mersch, Governor, Central Bank of Luxembourg

Jean-Nicolas Schaus, Director-General, Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier, Luxembourg

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In addition to the formal proceedings, the event provides an unrivalled opportunity to meet with senior individuals working in some six hundred banks, securities houses and exchanges from around the world that participate or have an interest in the international debt markets. Media representatives will also have the opportunity to visit the extensive exhibition area to see demonstrations of cutting-edge products and systems from many of the major information providers and financial institutions.

ENDS

Notes for editors

1 ISMA

The International Securities Market Association (ISMA) is the self-regulatory organisation and trade association for the international securities market. For some 600 member firms in almost 50 countries world wide, ISMA oversees the efficient functioning of the market through the implementation and enforcement of a self-regulatory code covering trading, settlement and good market practice. The Association also provides its member firms - and other users - with a range of services, products and support. Via a UK holding company, ISMA is the majority shareholder in COREDEAL, the pan-European electronic exchange for international debt-related securities.

2 Media attendance

Media representatives are welcome to attend ISMA's 33rd Annual General Meeting and Conference in Luxembourg free of charge. Journalists may observe all public proceedings at the event and, like other delegates, may participate by asking questions to panelists and conference speakers. Where possible, opportunities to speak to senior ISMA officials may be arranged. A well-equipped press office will be available.

This invitation is open only to accredited journalists who are employed or engaged to submit copy to a recognised publication/newswire/broadcaster. Freelance journalists must provide written confirmation of an engagement to write on behalf of a recognised publication/newswire/broadcaster. Alternative arrangements are available to marketing executives wishing to engage in promotional activity.

3 How to register

Media representatives are asked to cover their own travel, hotel and subsistence costs (except for the catering provided at formal events, which is free of charge). Enclosed with this press release is a travel and hotel accommodation form. Please note that the deadline for travel and hotel bookings has been extended beyond the March 6 deadline given on the form. Media representatives may bring an accompanying person at the normal rate of CHF 250.

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Essential

Complete the cream-coloured registration form and post it in the yellow envelope to ISMA's headquarters in Zurich (deadline April 13). Attendance is free-of-charge for media representatives. Media representatives should NOT send any money unless bringing an accompanying person.

Your choice

Complete the white hotel and travel form and post it in the white envelope to International Conference Solutions Limited.

For further information please contact

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