



XBRL INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHES XBRL EUROPE AND APPOINTS OLIVIER SERVAIS AS DIRECTOR

Following XBRL in Europe's significant outreach over the past two years, XBRL International is establishing a dedicated structure to support fast-growing XBRL activities in Europe.

Brussels, 1 February 2006 – XBRL International, the consortium leading the development and widespread use of eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), announced today that it has established XBRL Europe in order to support the fast growing XBRL activities in Europe. Two years ago, the European Commission signed a €1 million contract with the XBRL in Europe Consortium to accelerate the development and adoption of XBRL in the European Union. At the end of this successful project, XBRL International has decided to keep a dedicated structure in Europe to sustain these activities.

Additionally, XBRL International has appointed Olivier Servais as XBRL Europe Director. Mr. Servais served as Permanent Secretary during the XBRL in Europe project. He will continue to coordinate all XBRL activities in Europe as Director.

Commenting on the nomination, Kurt Ramin, Chair of the XBRL International Steering Committee, said: "I am very pleased to see Olivier on board. He played a crucial role during the two-year term of *XBRL in Europe*, and all the XBRL International Steering Committee members were convinced that we needed to keep him on board. We will continue to work closely with him and wish him all the best."

Commenting on the 2-year performance of XBRL in Europe, Gérald Santucci (European Commission Head of Unit ICT for Enterprise Networking) said:

"I want to commend Mr. Servais for his leadership in driving the *XBRL in Europe* project to success. It's good news for the XBRL standard, and it's good news for Europe, that he has now been appointed Director of the newly established 'XBRL Europe' structure. I extend my thanks to all the people in the Consortium who have done so well in raising awareness about the importance and the potential of using XBRL to a wide extent. There is no doubt that the European Commission will continue to lend its support through its heartfelt endorsement of your efforts, in particular towards making XBRL a helpful tool in designing and implementing a harmonised European reporting system. We wish to stress how vitally important XBRL is to business reporting in Europe."

On the establishment of XBRL Europe, Thomas Krantz, Chair of XBRL International Board of Advisors and Secretary General of the World Federation of Exchanges, added:

"It is our task as Board of Advisors to guide the XBRL Consortium on strategic priorities in the development of XBRL. The new European entity will be a key element in implementing this strategy amongst the financial services, the corporate market, analysts, accountants and all stakeholders in Europe."

Louis Matherne, President, XBRL International, concluded:

"There is no doubt that XBRL in Europe has played a significant role in XBRL adoption in Europe. We are now facing major challenges with XBRL deployment, and so having a dedicated structure to support that from Brussels, the European capital, is very important for us."

Many organisations across Europe are already adopting XBRL for reporting purposes. These include: the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS), the Dutch Government (including the Tax Authority, Dutch Water Boards and the Ministry of Justice), the National Bank of Belgium, the German Bundesbank, Banco de España, the Stock Exchanges in Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, and Hungary, the Spanish Securities regulator, and many more.

About XBRL Europe and Olivier Servais

XBRL Europe is a not-for-profit organization, registered in Belgium and based in Brussels, with the mission to sustain the fast-growing activities around the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) in Europe.



XBRL Europe Director, Olivier Servais, is also Member of the XBRL International Steering Committee and Member of the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR) Transparency Consultative Working Group.

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About XBRL and XBRL International

XBRL allows the platform independent definition, exchange and dissemination of business reporting information. It can be used to express a wide range of reports and disclosures including financial statements, internal management information, regulatory returns, statistical reports and credit filings. XBRL is widely recognized as a critical component in the improvement of corporate transparency.

XBRL International is a non-profit consortium, whose members include approximately 400 leading organizations from all segments of the business information supply chain. For more information about XBRL International, please visit www.xbrl.org.

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