



a.s.b.l.

Confédération Européenne des Associations d'Administrateurs
European Confederation of Directors' Associations

Brussels, 8 May 2008

PRESS RELEASE

The European board members propose taking shareholders' duties as part of Corporate Governance Recommendations

While the European Parliament is requesting the European Commission to take legislative initiative on hedge funds, private equity and institutional investors through the draft reports of Mr Lehne¹ and Mr Rasmussen², the European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) is claiming the need to focus on shareholders' duties at large.

ecoDa believes that the European Commission should not determine special rules and use the subprime crisis as an alibi to legislate Private Equity and Hedge Funds. According to its Chairman, Miles Templeman, *"There is no reason to isolate these specific owners from the others. The real input that the European Commission could give in terms of transparency of ownership and of voting rights, is to integrate shareholders' duties as part of Corporate Governance Recommendations"*.

If the European Commission has already devoted time working on shareholders' rights, ecoDa considers that it is now high time to pay attention to their duties.

For ecoDa, shareholders have to fulfil their role as owner of the company and monitor trends in the value of their assets by taking a regular interest in the life of the company and its strategy. By taking part in the general meetings and by exercising their right to vote, the shareholders demonstrate their involvement in key issues for the company.

For ecoDa, integrating shareholders' duties into the regular corporate governance codes is the only solution to respond to the concerns expressed within the debate on hedge funds and private equity without falling into an inflationary spiral of questionable legislative initiatives. As Miles Templeman concluded: *"pointing out the shareholders' duties will improve the whole corporate governance process for the benefit of all stakeholders."*

¹ Draft report on the transparency of institutional investors

² Draft report on investment alternative vehicles

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/718/718451/718451en.pdf

Notes for editors

Our members:

The European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) is representing the views of ten national institutes of directors the *Institute of Directors* (IoD), the Belgium *Guberna* (AB), the *Institut Français des Administrateurs* (IFA), the *Institut Luxembourgeois des Administrateurs* (ILA), the *Finnish Association of Professional Board Members* (Hallitusammattilaiset ry), the *Instituto de Consejeros – Administradores* (IC-A), the *Czech Institute of Directors* (CIoD), the *Slovenian Association of Supervisory Board Members* (ASBM), the Polish Institute of directors and the *Croatian Association of certified supervisory board members*.

Through its member-base, ecoDa represents individual board members from all kind of companies, small and bigger, public and private.

ecoDa organised a conference on "Private Equity and Corporate Governance: Perfect marriage or contradiction in terms?" on last 1st of April.

Our Chairman:

Miles Templeman is the Director General of the British Institute of Directors (IoD). Alongside his IoD role, Miles is non-executive Chairman of Shepherd Neame, the Kentish family brewer; non-executive at restaurant chain YO! Sushi; and a non-executive director of Melrose plc, the buy-out specialist.

Our Board:

ecoDa's Board members are Miles Templeman, Daniel Lebègue (former Chairman of ecoDa and President of the IFA), Pierre Klees (Former Chairman of ecoDa), Patrick Zurstrassen (Chairman of ILA), Juan Alvarez- Vijande (Director of IC-A), Olli Virtanen (Hallitusammattilaiset ry) and Irena Prijovic (Secretary General of ASBM).

Our Policy Committee:

Our Policy Committee is chaired by Lutgart Van den Berghe (executive director of Guberna). The other members are: Fernando Igartua Arregui (Instituto de Consejeros-Administradores), Borut Bratina (ASBM), Peter Callens (Guberna), Philippe Hoss (ILA), Juhani Mäkinen (Hallitusammattilaiset ry), Marie-Ange Andrieux (IFA), Hana Horak (HUCNO), Philippe Declaire(observer - Guberna/IFA), Antonio Hernandez (observer - Euronext), Anne Sophie Pijcke (observer - Euronext) and Béatrice Richez-Baum (SG ecoDa)

Our sponsor:

ecoDa is sponsored by Euronext.

Our website:

<http://www.ecoda.org>

And for more details, our contact point:

Béatrice Richez-Baum, Secretary General, ecoDa
Tel: +32 2 231 58 11
Fax: +32 2 231 58 31
Email: beatrice.richez-baum@ecoda.org or contact@ecoda.org