

Media release

Helvetia finalises purchase of CEAT in France

St.Gallen, 1 October 2009 / Helvetia Insurance has finalised the acquisition of L'Européenne d'Assurance Transport (CEAT) announced on 10 June 2009. The transaction was concluded after receiving approval from the supervisory authority.

CEAT, a company based in France, specialises in accidental damage insurance for utility vehicles and generated a premium volume of EUR 30 million in 2008. With this acquisition, Helvetia will improve its premium volume in France by more than 50 per cent and enlarge its product range to become the largest specialised insurer for the transport industry in this market.

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The purpose of this document is to inform the shareholders of Helvetia Group and the public of the finalisation of the acquisition of L'Européenne d'Assurance Transport. This document does not constitute an offer or a solicitation to exchange, buy or subscribe for securities, nor does it constitute an offering circular within the meaning of Art. 652 a of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus within the meaning of the listing rules of SWX Swiss Exchange. Should the Helvetia Group make one or more capital increases in the future, investors should make their decision to buy or subscribe for new shares or other securities solely on the basis of the relevant offering circular. This document is also available in German, French and Italian. The German version is binding.