

## Media release

### Helvetia acquires transport insurer CEAT in France

**Helvetia is acquiring the transport insurer L' Européenne d'Assurance Transport in France, thereby expanding its portfolio with accidental damage insurance for the transport industry. As a result France now has a strong provider of comprehensive transport insurance solutions. This acquisition underscores Helvetia's strategy of targeted growth in existing country markets.**

*St.Gallen, 10 June 2009* / Helvetia Insurance is purchasing the subsidiary L'Européenne d'Assurance Transport (CEAT) from Swiss Life. CEAT, which is domiciled in France, specialises in accidental damage insurance for commercial vehicles and generated a premium volume of EUR 30 million in 2008. Subject to approval by the relevant supervisory body, the transaction will be concluded in the second half of 2009. CEAT will initially retain its brand name. With the conclusion of the transaction, Helvetia will increase its premium volume in France by more than 50 percent, thereby becoming the largest specialised transport insurer in this market.

#### **Insurance cover for transport industry under one roof**

The acquisition has strategic value for Helvetia France. In future, the existing transport insurance business will be supplemented by accidental damage insurance. In the eyes of Alain Tintelin, Managing Director of Helvetia France, this transaction facilitates the ideal merger of the competence and product range of the two companies: «CEAT complements Helvetia's product range perfectly. Now transport companies can obtain full insurance cover from one provider: accidental damage insurance for commercial vehicles, buildings insurance for warehouses and operational facilities, general liability insurance and transport insurance for goods. In this way we are clearly creating added value for our customers. In addition, this acquisition will also strengthen our closely linked, broker-based distribution network and create the optimum conditions for profitable, sustainable growth through united strength.»

Stefan Loacker, Chief Executive Officer of Helvetia Group, endorses these sentiments: «The purchase of CEAT supports Helvetia Group's strategy of growing both organically and through selective acquisitions in its existing country markets. Thanks to our excellent capital base, we are able to finance this transaction with our own funds. Helvetia Group's solvency margin will, however, remain as strong as ever.»

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**About Helvetia Group**

In the past 150 years, Helvetia Group grew from a number of Swiss and foreign insurance companies into a successful insurance group that does business everywhere in Europe. Today, Helvetia has branch offices in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and France, and routes some of its investment and financing activities through subsidiaries and fund companies in Luxembourg and Jersey. The Group is headquartered in St.Gallen in Switzerland. Helvetia is active in the life, property and casualty and reinsurance segments, and almost 4,600 employees provide services to more than two million customers. With a business volume of CHF 5.7 billion, Helvetia posted a net profit of CHF 230.5 million in the 2008 financial year. The Helvetia Holding registered share is part of the Swiss Performance Index (SPI) and is traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange under the symbol HELN.

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The purpose of this document is to inform the shareholders of Helvetia Group and the public of the acquisition of the transport insurer CEAT in France. 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.