

Euler Hermes named best trade credit insurer by *Global Finance*

PARIS – 19 DECEMBER 2012 – <u>Euler Hermes</u> was named best global <u>trade credit insurer</u> in the 2012 <u>Global Finance awards</u> for "Best Global Risk Management Providers." *Global Finance* is a monthly magazine for corporate leaders, bankers and investors with a readership in 163 countries.

"Trade credit insurance is a valuable financial management tool that helps businesses identify the best customers and protect cash flow essential to company operations and sustainability," said <u>Wilfried Verstraete</u>, chairman, Euler Hermes Group. "It is an honor for our services and customer focus to be recognized by industry colleagues worldwide."

According to <u>Joseph D. Giarraputo</u>, president and publisher of Global Finance, "We're certain the results will prove useful as our readers assess their insurance and risk management needs and look to identify 'best-of-class' providers in the months ahead."

In its awards announcement *Global Finance* noted that, "the need for competent, versatile and financially sound insurance and risk providers is at an all-time high...the world has become more complex ... (with) challenges to margins from intense competition and globalization... (and) difficult and evolving risk issues in every corner of the globe."

Top insurers were recognized overall and by coverage in six regions of the world, including: US/Canada, Europe, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia Pacific and Middle East/Africa. Winners were selected by a panel of 14 prominent risk management and financial executives at major companies headquartered in each geographic region of the world, and a survey of the publication's readers. Award criteria included

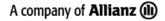
- innovation/creativity
- capacity
- pricing and coverage terms
- financial security/stability
- reach
- service delivery on claims handling and pre-loss service.

In addition to Euler Hermes' selection as best global trade credit insurer, <u>Allianz</u> was named best overall insurer and, in eastern/central Europe, <u>Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty</u> as best general liability and best directors and officers (D&O) insurer.

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Euler Hermes is the worldwide leader in credit insurance and one of the leaders in the areas of bonding, guarantees and collections. With 6,000+ employees in over 50 countries, Euler Hermes offers a complete range of services for the management of B-to-B trade receivables and posted a consolidated turnover of ≤ 2.27 billion in 2011.

Euler Hermes has developed a credit intelligence network that enables it to analyze the financial stability of 40+ million businesses across the globe. The Group insured worldwide business transactions totaling \in 702 billion exposure end of December 2011.

Euler Hermes, a subsidiary of Allianz, is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris (ELE.PA) and is rated AA- by Standard & Poor's.

For more information visit <u>www.eulerhermes.com</u> or follow us on Twitter @eulerhermes

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The statements contained herein may include statements of future expectations and other forward-looking statements that are based on management's current views and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. In addition to statements which are forward-looking by reason of context, the words "may", "will", "should", "expects", "plans", "intends", "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "predicts", "potential", or "continue" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Actual results, performance or events may differ materially from those in such statements due to, without limitation, (i) general economic conditions, including in particular economic conditions in the Euler Hermes Group's core business and core markets, (ii) performance of financial markets, including emerging markets, and including market volatility, liquidity and credit events (iii) the frequency and severity of insured loss events, including from natural catastrophes and including the development of loss expenses, (iv) persistency levels, (v) the extent of credit defaults, (vi) interest rate levels, (vii) currency exchange rates including the Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate, (viii) changing levels of competition, (ix) changes in laws and regulations, including monetary convergence and the European Monetary Union, (x) changes in the policies of central banks and/or foreign governments, (xi) the impact of acquisitions, including related integration issues, (xii) reorganization measures, and (xiii) general competitive factors, in each case on a local, regional, national and/or global basis. Many of these factors may be more likely to occur, or more pronounced, as a result of terrorist activities and their consequences. The company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.