

Press Release
Brussels, 10th May 2013

Exchanges and publicly quoted companies welcome the European Commission's initiative to launch a 'practical guide to going public in Europe'

The European Commission has published a practical guide to going public on the DG Enterprise and Industry website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/risk-capital/going-public/index_en.htm

The guide was developed with the assistance of EuropeanIssuers and the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) and provides practical information about listing including information on the benefits of listing, things to consider, is your company ready, how to list (which includes information on what regulation in Europe applies) and where to list. The guide provides an excellent general outline to any company that would like to consider going public and explains to companies some of the changes and challenges that they will face if they seek financing from the capital markets. The website also provides some quotes from companies who have already experienced the listing process and are able to share their experience on different levels of the process.

Susannah Haan, Secretary General of EuropeanIssuers, said: "Given the current credit crunch, there is an urgent need for companies to raise money from non-bank sources. Facilitating access to finance through the capital markets in Europe has never been more important. We hope that policymakers will pay more attention to the needs of companies seeking to access the capital markets. We therefore welcome the publication of this online guide giving practical information to companies and we hope to see additional action in the future."

Judith Hardt, Secretary General of FESE, said: "In relation to capital markets, we believe that this is an excellent first step in addressing the issues faced by companies. However, there is more that can be done. Capital markets are a key component of the financial markets value chain and they play an integral role in contributing towards growth and ultimately the health of the economy. This guide is a first step in helping companies understand how to list and its benefits, however we believe that helping local ecosystems deliver IPOs should be at the forefront of EU policies. We look forward to working with the Commission further on this issue to address what needs to be done to support our companies in Europe"

Information for the Editor:

About EuropeanIssuers:

EuropeanIssuers represents the views of companies with shares quoted on the stock exchanges of Europe. We aim to ensure that EU policy creates an environment in which companies can raise capital through the public markets and can deliver growth over the longer-term.

We seek capital markets that serve the interests of all their end users, including issuers. More information can be found at www.europeanissuers.eu

About FESE

The Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) represents 46 exchanges in equities, bonds, derivatives and commodities through 21 full members from 30 countries, as well as 4 Observer Members. FESE is a keen defender of the Internal Market and many of its members have become multi-jurisdictional exchanges, providing market access across multiple investor communities. FESE represents the operators of public Regulated Markets. Regulated Markets provide both institutional and retail investors with transparent and neutral price-formation. Securities admitted to trading on our markets have to comply with stringent initial and ongoing disclosure requirements and accounting and auditing standards imposed by EU laws.

As of March 2013, FESE members had up to 8,953 companies listed on their markets, of which 8% are foreign companies contributing towards the European integration and providing broad and liquid access to Europe's capital markets. Many of our members also organise specialised markets that allow small and medium sized companies across Europe to access the capital markets; 1,458 companies were listed in these specialised markets/segments in equity, increasing choice for investors and issuers.

For further information:

EuropeanIssuers Secretariat

Susannah Haan
Secretary General
Tel +32 2 289 2571
Email: susannah.haan@europeanissuers.eu

FESE Secretariat

Tracey Roberts
Communications Adviser
Tel: +32 2 551 01 87
Email: roberts@fese.eu