

**Press Release**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006

**MilleniumAssociates AG, Switzerland, appoints Erik Wetter as  
Senior International Advisor**

MilleniumAssociates AG, the Swiss based independent international M&A Advisory firm to the global financial services industry, announces the appointment of Erik Wetter as a Senior International Advisor to the firm. Mr. Wetter, a Swedish/Venezuelan national and a graduate of London and Georgetown Universities, has a prestigious track record in investment banking. He was a senior member of the Financial Institutions Group at investment banks Schrodgers and Lazard where he was involved in major M&A transactions in the financial services industry across Europe, building extensive experience and know-how in this market.

Ray Soudah, a Founder of MilleniumAssociates, said: "I am delighted to welcome Erik Wetter who is becoming a Senior International Advisor to our expanding firm. He is a respected and well-connected person in the financial services industry in Europe and beyond and he will considerably strengthen and extend the combined network and experience of MilleniumAssociates."

Erik Wetter stated: "MilleniumAssociates has become the leading Swiss based independent M&A adviser in the wealth, asset management and financial services industry with a prime international reputation and global reach. I very much look forward to working together with this efficient team of highly qualified and motivated professionals and to contributing to the success of its clients".

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## Note to Editors

MilleniumAssociates is a Swiss based independent M&A global advisory firm specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions and strategy consulting for the financial services industry exclusively. MilleniumAssociates' fully dedicated team of specialists are currently involved in numerous active financial services advisory projects with assignments supporting clients with expanding global strategies, as well as those seeking to determine their ideal strategic options including partnerships , alliances and IPO plans. The firm donates at least one percent of annual gross profits to charity.

Selected previous assignments of MilleniumAssociates include:

- Sale by Kredietbank Luxembourg of Banca KBL Fumagalli Soldan (Italy) to Spanish bank BANIF, a subsidiary of Santander Group
- Acquisition by Evolution Group (UK) of Williams de Broë (UK), a subsidiary of ING Group (Netherlands)
- Corporate Advisor to Charlemagne Capital (UK) prior to its Initial Public Offering
- Sale on behalf of Dexia-BIL of Dexia Private Banking (UK) to Rathbone Brothers plc (UK)
- Sale of Abacus Financial Services Group Limited, Jersey, to Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- Sale of Helix Associates Limited, UK, to Jefferies Group, Inc., USA
- Sale on behalf of Dexia-BIL of its French IFA subsidiary Dexia Partenaires France to French insurance group CNP Assurances
- Sale of Seydler AG Wertpapierhandelsbank, Frankfurt/Germany, to Close Brothers Group plc, UK
- Acquisition by Barclays Bank plc of the Wealth Business of ING Securities Bank (France)
- Sale on behalf of Caixa Holding SA, Crédit Andorra SA and Dexia Banque Internationale à Luxembourg SA of their joint subsidiary, Société Monégasque de Banque Privée, Monaco, to BNP Paribas Private Bank (Switzerland) SA
- Acquisition of a majority stake in Charlotte Capital Management by Sanders M