

PRESS RELEASE

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New Website Launched For International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines

Brussels, 16 November 2005

Following the first meeting of the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation (IPEV) last month, the board has launched a new website www.privateequityvaluation.com. The main purpose of this site is to provide a forum where the users of the guidelines can follow the latest developments in this field and ask the board questions regarding the application of the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines.

The independent IPEV board was created in June 2005 following the development of the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines by AFIC, BVCA and EVCA¹. The board monitors market practices in the use of the guidelines. It also proposes amendments to the guidelines following any relevant changes to accounting standards and market practices and formally reviews the guidelines every three years. The board has an advisory role and gives guidance on the application of the guidelines to all stakeholders in the private equity and venture capital industry including practitioners, investors, regulators and auditors. It is composed of nominated members of the founding and endorsing associations.

The board also announced that six more associations have endorsed the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines since June (for a full list please see Annex 1). These are:

- APEA (Arab Private Equity Association)
- ATIC (Tunisian Venture Capital Association)
- AVCO (Austrian Private Equity and Venture Capital Organization)
- CVCA (Canada's Venture Capital and Private Equity Association)
- FVCA (Finnish Venture Capital Association)
- Réseau Capital (Québec Venture Capital and private Equity Association)

Commenting on the first meeting, Herman Daems, Chairman of GIMV and newly appointed Chairman of the Board said:

"The purpose of the valuation guidelines has been to provide a set of principles that will enhance transparency and allow greater comparability across the industry. As private equity and venture capital industry is constantly evolving we have to continuously monitor how the guidelines are implemented. In this context, having a board is important and provides a guarantee of quality.

¹ AFIC – Association Française des Investisseurs en Capital; BVCA - British Venture Capital Association; EVCA - European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association.

Monitoring and reviewing the industry guidelines with regard to regulations as well as market practices will ensure that they will be kept up to date and relevant for both general partners and limited partners.”

Jonathan Lowe, Chief Financial Officer, Permira and BVCA representative commented:

“The first meeting of the IPEV Board is a step towards promoting the widest use of the valuation guidelines. The website is a useful tool and will provide a medium for discussion and knowledge sharing which we hope will be useful to those using the guidelines.”

Hervé Claquin, CEO, ABN AMRO Capital France and AFIC representative said:

“The continued endorsement of the guidelines by other national associations is a positive sign and important for achieving greater transparency and consistency across the industry. We hope that more associations will endorse the guidelines in the future.”

Notes to Editors:

1. The members of the board are: Herman Daems, (Chairman - GIMV NV), Prof. Dr. Ann-Kristin Achleitner (Center for Entrepreneurial and Financial Studies - Technische Universität München), Jens Bisgaard (Managing Partner - ATP Private Equity Partners), Anthony Cecil (Partner - KPMG LLP), Hervé Claquin (CEO - ABN AMRO Capital France), Jonathan Lowe (Chief Financial Officer - Permira), Monique Saulnier (Managing Partner & CFO - Sofinnova).
2. The International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines were developed over several years of collaboration between the three associations and all members of the associations were asked to comment on the new Guidelines in a consultation process from December 2004 – February 2005. They were developed to reflect the need for greater comparability across the industry and for consistency with IFRS and US GAAP accounting principles. Valuation guidelines are used by the private equity and venture capital industry for valuing private equity and venture capital investments and provide a framework for fund managers and investors to monitor the value of existing investments.
3. For a copy of the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Guidelines, please go to www.privateequityvaluation.com

For further information, please contact:

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Appendix 1

List of endorsing associations

- AIFI - Italian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- APCRI - Portuguese Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- APEA – Arab Private Equity Association
- ASCRI - Spanish Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- ATIC – Tunisian Venture Capital Association
- AVCA - African Venture Capital Association
- AVCAL - Australian Venture Capital Association
- AVCO – Austrian Private Equity and Venture Capital Organization
- BVA - Belgian Venturing Association
- BVK - German Private Equity and Venture Capital Association e.V.
- CVCA – Canada's Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
- CVCA - Czech Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
- DVCA - Danish Venture Capital Association
- FVCA - Finnish Venture Capital Association
- HKVCA - Hong Kong Venture Capital Association
- HVCA - Hungarian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
- ILPA - Institutional Limited Partners Association
- IVCA - Irish Venture Capital Association
- LVCA - Latvian Venture Capital Association
- NVCA - Norwegian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association
- NVP - Nederlandse Vereniging van Participatiemaatschappijen
- PPEA - Polish Private Equity Association
- Réseau Capital – Québec Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
- RVCA - Russian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- SAVCA - Southern African Venture Capital and Private Equity Association
- SECA - Swiss Private Equity and Corporate Finance Association
- SLOVACA – Slovak Venture Capital Association