

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**European Finance Houses Federation Announces New Board of Directors**

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**BRUSSELS – 8 November 2011** – Eurofinas, the voice of consumer credit providers at European level, announces its new Board of Directors who will serve for a term of two years, effective as of 1 November 2011. Also, the General Assembly re-appointed Pedro Guijarro as Chairman of the Federation and Joanna Van Bladel (BE), Valentino Ghelli (IT) and Eric Spielrein (FR) as Vice-Chairs.

“Having such a strong Board of Directors during what are challenging times for the retail financial services industry is a blessing and testimony to the industry’s commitment to ensure that its voice in Brussels is heard loud and clear” said Eurofinas Director General Tanguy van de Werve.

Re-elected Chair Pedro Guijarro commented: “Our industry will continue to play a vital role in the recovery of the European economy and our Federation, as its primary advocate, will be at the forefront of this effort. Regulatory challenges are numerous and include, not only a series of consumer protection and/or single market driven initiatives taken by the European Commission but also the new capital requirements regime and some of the ongoing work of the Financial Stability Board.”

“The fact that three of the new Board members are very senior executives of automotive finance companies is worth stressing and reflects the importance of car finance to the economy and for consumers”, he added.

Pedro Guijarro became Vice-Chairman of Eurofinas in 2005 and Chairman in 2009. He has worked at Santander Group as Senior Vice-President for consumer credit and held a number of managing positions in the consumer credit sector in different European countries over the past 20 years.

The members of the new Eurofinas Board of Directors are:

- Adriana Ahciarliu, Secretary General, ALB (RO)
- Susana Albuquerque, Secretary General, ASFAC (PT)
- Konstantin Balakin, Chair of the Board, LVLKA (LT)
- Christian Brandt, Managing Director, Finance and Leasing (DK)
- Kees Droppert, Chair, VFN (NL)
- Tom Ekelund, Director General, Association of Swedish Finance Houses (SE)
- Umberto Filotto, Secretary General, ASSOFIN (IT)
- Valentino Ghelli, President, ASSOFIN (IT)
- Pedro Guijarro, Past Chair, ASNEF (ES)
- Rolf Dr. Hagen, Managing Director, GEFA (DE)
- Vesa Kantee, Managing Director, Handelsbanken Fin. Plc (FI)
- Reima Letto, Senior Adviser, Federation of Finnish Financial Services(FI)
- Anne-Lise Løfsgaard, Managing Director, Assoc. of Norwegian Finance Houses(NO)



- Antonio Menezes Rodrigues, Chair, ASFAC (PT)
- Krzysztof Opaliński, Chair, KPF (PL)
- Françoise Palle-Guillabert, Director General, ASF (FR)
- Erhard Paulat, Managing Director, GMAC UK plc (UK)
- Jiri Pulz, Secretary General, CLFA (CZ)
- Albert Reitsma, Secretary General, VFN (NL)
- Patrik Riese, Managing Director, Volkswagen Finans Sverige (SE)
- Andrzej Roter, Director General, KPF (PL)
- Honorio Ruiz, Secretary General, ASNEF (ES)
- Stephen Sklaroff, Director General, FLA (UK)
- Eric Spielrein, Secretary General & CRO, RCI Banque (FR)
- Jirina Tapsikova, President, CLFA (CZ)
- Joanna Van Bladel, Director , Consumer & Small Business Loans, Dexia Bank (BE)
- Peter Wacket, Managing Director, Bankenfachverband e. V. (DE)

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### **About Eurofinas**

Eurofinas, the European Federation of Finance House Associations, is the voice of consumer credit providers in the EU. As a Federation, Eurofinas brings together associations throughout Europe that represent finance houses, specialised banks, captive finance companies of car, equipment, etc. manufacturers and universal banks. The scope of products covered by Eurofinas members includes all forms of consumer credit products such as personal loans, linked credit, credit cards and store cards. Consumer credit facilitates access to assets and services as diverse as cars, furniture, electronic appliances, education etc.

It is estimated that together Eurofinas members financed over 324 billion euros worth of new loans during 2010 with outstandings reaching 824 billion Euros at the end of the year.

More information on Eurofinas activities available at [www.eurofinas.org](http://www.eurofinas.org)