

Press Release

London, 17 January 2006

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking appointments Michel Payan as Global Head of M&A

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking announces the appointment of **Michel Payan** as Global Head of M&A. In this role, Michel Payan will manage all the bank's M&A activities in Europe, the United States and Asia, under the responsibility of Thierry Aulagnon, Global Head of Investment Banking at Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking. Michel will arrive at the bank shortly.

Thierry Aulagnon commented: "We are very pleased to welcome Michel Payan, a professional with a strong reputation in M&A, whose contribution will boost our strategy of focused development in this area. At the start of this promising year, with several important transactions already announced *, the objective of the teams will be, under the guidance of Michel Payan, to further strengthen our relationships with key French and international clients, in order to best assist them in their strategic transactions –whether in France or cross border."

* Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking is the adviser to Wendel Investment on its acquisition of Materis, adviser to Aker Yards on its purchase of Alstom Marine and adviser to DCN on its partnership agreement with Thales.

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SOCIETE GENERALE
A French corporation with share
capital of EUR 550,781,598.75
552 120 222 RCS PARIS

Biography

Michel Payan began his career in 1982 at Credit Lyonnais Group as an Engineer and Advisor and then became a Senior Associate of Summit Ventures, a private equity company based in Boston. In 1987, he was involved in setting up Clinvest, the subsidiary of Credit Lyonnais specializing in M&A. After being Head of M&A in the Americas at Credit Lyonnais from 1990-1991, he rejoined Clinvest in Paris, where he was Head of Telecom-Media-Technology, and became Chairman of the board of Clinvest from 1998 to 2004. Since 2005, Michel has worked at Hawkpoint Partners, an English M&A firm, as Managing Director, in charge of M&A activity in France. Michel graduated from Ecole Centrale de Paris and IEP de Paris, and is 49 years of age.

Société Générale

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs 93,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking & Financial Services: Société Générale serves about 19 million individual customers worldwide.
- Global Investment Management & Services: Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 1,317 billion, September 2005) and under management (EUR 370 billion, September 2005).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Société Générale ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially-responsible investment indexes.

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Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking

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- Euro capital markets. A top ten player in debt and equity segments (bonds, securitisations, syndicated loans, equity-linked and equity issues).
- Derivatives. Among the world leaders in equity derivatives and in many interest rate, credit, foreign exchange and commodities derivatives.
- Structured finance. A worldwide leader in export, project and structured commodity finance.

Combining innovation and quality of execution, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking provides corporates, financial institutions and investors with value-added integrated financial solutions.

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