



Solid partners, flexible solutions

Press release

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Fortis International Wealth Management enters the Middle East Market

Fortis was recently granted a banking licence in the UAE, allowing its Private Banking division to offer its Middle East and Southeast Asian clients a complete range of wealth management services through a new Dubai branch of its Swiss subsidiary, Banque MeesPierson BGL S.A. This branch, with a team of ten specialists, is located at the premises of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Mubashir Sheikh, MeesPierson's Managing Director and Regional Head for the Middle East and Southeast Asia said, *"We are pleased to have a physical presence in the Dubai International Financial Centre which is rapidly becoming a financial hub for the Middle East and Indian subcontinent. Our physical presence is a sign of our commitment to doing business in the region."*

"Our 285 year-old tradition and expertise in wealth building, wealth management and wealth transmission combined with our experienced professionals will enable us to bring clear added value to our customers."

"At MeesPierson, we believe in "Time to listen, capacity to act." This expression is reflected in our way of conducting business. We look forward to serving our customers in the region and supporting them with our international network and banking expertise in the same spirit."

Welcoming Banque MeesPierson to the DIFC, Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman, Director General of the Dubai International Financial Centre said, *"The unique position of MeesPierson, the Private bankers of Fortis, is well known in the global financial community. Its decision to operate from the DIFC is a further endorsement of our infrastructure, capabilities and promise. We are certain that the bank will be able to find a perfect operating environment here and that it will tap into innumerable business opportunities throughout the region by being based in the DIFC."*

Further information on the group's activities or contact details can be found on www.meespierson.com & www.fortis.com.

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Fortis Commercial & Private Banking

Fortis' Commercial & Private Banking business unit is an international services provider of choice for entrepreneurs and their enterprises as well as for high net worth families and their intermediaries. To high net worth individuals – often entrepreneurs – their families, corporations and intermediaries, Fortis offers highly sophisticated wealth management and estate planning solutions for assets and liabilities. Within Fortis, the Private Banking & Trust unit's activities currently operate in a number of European and Asian markets under the MeesPierson brand and manage EUR 61.5 billion in client assets. A team of 2,800 professionals offers customized advice in all major financial centres in 23 countries. MeesPierson stands among the top 15 European private banks.

Fortis

Fortis is an integrated financial services provider active in the fields of banking and insurance. With a market capitalization of EUR 31.3 billion (30/09/2005) and around 55,000 employees, Fortis ranks in the top 20 of European financial institutions. In its home market, the Benelux countries, Fortis occupies a leading position which it aims to develop and bolster. Fortis is drawing on the expertise it has acquired in its home market to realize its European ambitions via growth platforms. Fortis also operates successfully worldwide in selected activities. In specific countries in Europe and Asia it effectively exploits its know-how and experience in bancassurance. Fortis is listed on the exchanges of Amsterdam, Brussels and Luxembourg and has a sponsored ADR programme in the United States. More information is available on www.fortis.com

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