



PRESS RELEASE

Vigeo and oekom research form a strategic partnership on bond research

PARIS, MUNICH – 2nd December 2008 – Vigeo and oekom research, two leading European Corporate Social Responsibility Rating Agencies, decided to join forces in the area of bonds on two levels.

1.Non-sovereign bond research

Vigeo now has the exclusive licence to distribute oekom's non-sovereign bond research throughout seven European countries: France, Benelux, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

oekom's research is one of the world's most accepted tools to integrate ESG factors into bond portfolios. The rating methodology focuses on more than 100 single indicators, is based on the highest available quality standards and an absolutely transparent rating process. In total, the research covers 120 of the most important international bond issuers, primarily non-listed banks, supranational organisations and some industry companies.

2.Local authorities research

The second area of partnership comprise local authorities: Vigeo and oekom have developed a common rating methodology in order to assess local authorities with regard to their social and environmental performance. This rating methodology is based on Vigeo's Equitics methodology, which has been customized for local authorities' specific issues. Both partners have already rated 26 local authorities including all German federal states as well as various cities and provinces in Italy, France, Spain and Canada. Vigeo and oekom will extend this number to a minimum of 50 by the year 2010 and distribute these throughout their markets.

Nicole Notat, CEO of Vigeo, highlights *"Two years ago we established a successful partnership between oekom research and Vigeo in order to realize tailor made services for a French Pension Fund. Based on this, we decided to implement further collaborations which will benefit our European clients with a high quality research and extended coverage on bond issuers"*.

For **Robert Hassler, CEO of oekom research**, *"this partnership enables numerous asset managers and institutional investors in Europe to get access easily to our research services. Vigeo's strong position in these markets helps a lot."*

Press contact

About Vigeo

Vigeo is the Leading European Corporate Social Responsibility Ratings Agency. Vigeo measures the organisations' CSR commitments, and identifies extra-financial risk and their level of management.

Vigeo provides two services:

- SRI Analysis, Ratings and Benchmarks for investors and asset managers
- CSR Audits for companies and local governments

The Vigeo teams represent a staff of 83 and 14 different nationalities, on 4 locations: Paris, Brussels, Milan, Casablanca.

www.vigeo.com

About oekom research

Oekom research advises investors and financial service providers on implementing tailored sustainable investment strategies. The company is one of the leading service providers worldwide on the sustainable capital market. As a Rating Agency oekom research is covering the most important stocks and bonds worldwide. oekom research is known for its profound analysis. Since the company's foundation in 1993, customers have benefited from in depth information on a huge variety of environmental and social indicators.

Oekom research's analyses are used by more than 40 asset managers and institutional investors and currently influence the investment of over 90 billion euros assets under management. The company has a staff of 30 and is located in Munich/Germany.

For further information please visit our websites:

www.oekom-research.com

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