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**Paris EUROPLACE and the City of Moscow
Signed a MoU on Financial Services**

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, June 18, 2010 – The City of Moscow and Paris EUROPLACE have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in St. Petersburg today in presence of Mrs Christine LAGARDE, French Minister of the Economy, Industry, and Employment. The Memorandum will enable greater cooperation between the Paris and Moscow financial marketplaces, at a time when international financial centers are starting to work together more closely.

The cooperation agreement covers several areas and will enable Paris and Moscow to set up regular and frequent exchanges of information and experiences on financial practices and on the development of new services and products, especially regarding debt management, an area where Paris and Moscow both play a major international role. The agreement includes the creation and management of an Institute of Risk Management and provides for regular exchanges of information on market infrastructures, in relation with securities law evolution and international best practices. A joint working group will structure these exchanges. This working group may also organize seminars and provide local and mutual assistance, aimed at both French and Russian financial-market players, for the development of their commercial, institutional, and public relations.

In accordance with the terms of the Memorandum, Paris and Moscow will jointly launch the following actions:

- sharing experience in the area of debt management,
- exchanging information on securities law,
- sharing new approaches to market infrastructures, particularly focusing on issues, related to custodians, clearing houses, and settlement,
- developing relations between French and Russian schools and universities.

This MoU is part of Paris EUROPLACE's strategy to consolidate the international position of the Paris financial marketplace by establishing strong and structured relations with leading financial centers, mainly to carry out shared projects in a post-crisis context.

For Russia this agreement lies in the framework of the project led by President MEDVEDEV to make Moscow a leading financial center. The city of Moscow is one of the principal promoters of this program, and has been entrusted with working on modernizing legal

fundamentals. The Moscow financial market, which includes 25% of national GDP and most financial institutions in the Russian Federation, has a high attractiveness for French and European investors.

G rard MESTRALLET, Chairman of Paris EUROPLACE and Chairman and CEO of GDF Suez, stated that "given the Russian economic power, Moscow's ambition to position itself as a world leading financial center, combined with Paris EUROPLACE's aim to develop agreements with prestigious foreign partners and share its expertise, enticed us quite naturally to sign this agreement. The MoU will allow both countries to set the foundation of a long term cooperation, to the benefit of all companies, intermediaries, and investors that we serve."

This memorandum is being ratified on the occasion of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, June 17-19, where industrial agreements will be signed to begin, extend, and confirm economic and financial ties between France and Russia.

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About Paris EUROPLACE

Founded in 1993, Paris EUROPLACE is the Paris financial market's representative organization. The association gathers all categories of the financial industry's participants: issuers, investors, intermediaries, market authorities, legal and accounting professionals and professional associations, as well as the City of Paris and the Banque de France. The promotion and coordination work carried out by Paris Europlace on behalf of the Paris financial market are today widely recognized abroad, with annual events scheduled in Paris, New York, Beijing, and Tokyo.

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