

BERENT WALLEDAHL JOINS GRUPPO BANCA LEONARDO

Milan, July 7th 2010 – Gruppo Banca Leonardo today announced the appointment of **Berent Wallendahl as Chairman of GBL's European Advisory Operating Committee**. In this role Mr Wallendahl will coordinate the full integration of the European Advisory business, which is currently based in seven locations (Milan, Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, Bruxelles, Amsterdam and Madrid) and manage the origination and execution of cross-border M&A and Corporate Finance mandates.

Wallendahl will also be appointed **Head of Germany**.

In addition, Wallendahl will be in charge of the expansion of GBL's business in the Nordic Countries, Switzerland and Austria, with a dedicated staff, initially based in Frankfurt. He will contribute his own activity into GBL, consisting of corporate finance mandates, as well as make a personal investment into the bank.

Before joining Gruppo Banca Leonardo, Wallendahl was Managing Director and member of the Executive Committee at Dresdner Kleinwort responsible for Client Coverage worldwide in its Global Banking division. He previously spent thirteen years in Goldman Sachs as Managing Director responsible for the Nordic Investment Banking business. From 1989 to 1993 he was one of the partners of Ermgassen & Co with a pan-European corporate finance remit. Prior to that, Wallendahl spent more than eight years at JP Morgan in M+A and corporate finance roles based in New York, Rome and Frankfurt.

Berent Wallendahl will report to GBL's Chief Executive Officer, Gerardo Braggiotti.

Braggiotti comments: "I am delighted to welcome Berent to GBL. This is a critical role for the bank, as we look to complete the integration of the various European corporate finance locations and continue to build our cross-border business in Europe. Berent has an excellent track record and will be a strong addition to our team."

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Gruppo Banca Leonardo also announced today that Fritz Froehlich has joined the Advisory Board of Leonardo&Co in Frankfurt.

About Gruppo Banca Leonardo

Gruppo Banca Leonardo is a leading independent European investment bank acquired and capitalised in April 2006 by a group of European investors led by Gerardo Braggiotti and including CNP, Eurazeo, Exor, Fondiaria-SAI, Torreal and Allianz. The Group's strategic focus is on two principal areas of business: investment banking and wealth management.

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