



PRESS RELEASE

QBE APPOINTS HEAD OF AVIATION IN FRANCE

LONDON, 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

QBE is pleased to announce the appointment of Jean-Claude Gèze as Head of Aviation for QBE France. Jean-Claude will report to Emilio Di Silvio (Managing Director of Aviation) and Jean Basset (General Manager for QBE in France) and will be based in QBE's Paris office.

Jean-Claude was previously employed as Underwriting Director of Aviation at Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (France), and before that had worked at Allianz Marine & Aviation and Assurance France Aviation during his 15-year aviation insurance career.

QBE already has a sizeable portfolio of business in France from its existing product range, managed from its headquarters in Paris. With Jean Claude's appointment QBE will be able to provide Aviation insurance products and services across the full spectrum of Aerospace risks in the region.

Commenting on the appointment, Jean Basset, General Manager for QBE in France said: "This new line of business for QBE in France once again proves QBE European Operations' long term commitment to the French market."

"We are very pleased to welcome Jean-Claude Gèze to head this new class of business for Paris and we expect to capitalize on his well-known franchise in this area to cross-sell other lines of business linked to the Aerospace sector, such as Casualty and Property."

Emilio Di Silvio, Managing Director for Aviation at QBE European Operations, commented: "This appointment is a very important step in the development of QBE's long-term ambitions in the European Aviation sector. Jean-Claude is a knowledgeable, highly respected and well-connected individual within the French market and having worked with Jean-Claude for many years in different roles, I am delighted that he has now agreed to join QBE."

"As Head of Aviation in France he will be a key member of the European Aviation team, and will take a leading role in the continued evolution of this part of our business, whilst his long market experience and wide network of personal relationships will benefit all aspects of the French Aviation business"

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For further information please contact:

Victoria Sisson
Senior PR Consultant
QBE European Operations

Tel: +44 20 7105 4428
Email victoria.sisson@uk.qbe.com

Notes to editors

ABOUT QBE

QBE Insurance Group is Standard & Poor's 'A+' rated and is one of the world's leading international insurers and reinsurers, headquartered in Sydney, Australia. We operate out of 45 countries across the globe, with a presence in all key insurance markets, and are lead underwriters within our chosen markets, setting rates and conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2008, the company underwrote gross written premium totaling £6,025 million and held shareholders' funds of £5,364 million.

QBE's European Operations, which accounts for almost 40% of QBE Group turnover, is a leading specialist in London market and European commercial lines business. Active in both the Lloyd's and company market, QBE offers considerable diversity to the broking community, via eight product-focused underwriting divisions - casualty, QBE Re Europe, property, motor, marine & energy, specialty, aviation - all operations have the ability to write on both Lloyd's and company market paper.

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