

Fortis Bank Nederland

Press statement

Amsterdam, 21 November 2008 - The Management Board of Fortis Bank Nederland takes an open and constructive approach to the Finance Minister's choice for the bank's future. The Minister announced in a press conference today that Fortis Bank Nederland will integrate with ABN AMRO.

Fortis Bank Nederland chairman Jan van Rutte: "First of all, we are pleased that the Minister has opted for the scenario we have always favoured – one strong, new bank. Secondly, we are happy with how the creation of the new group is being achieved – under the supervision of an independent integration steering committee headed by former Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm, which will coordinate the process at both banks.

"The integration with ABN AMRO gives us certainty about the future. Our customers and staff will benefit from this decision too. The new group will be a strong, healthy Dutch financial institution with an international image. One that will give employees opportunities for growth and customers access to a broad package of products and services that meet the needs of every type of customer: from individuals to businesses, from small savers to wealthy investors.

"Our shareholder has recommended to our Supervisory Board the appointment of Mr Hessel Lindenbergh as its new chairman. The Supervisory Board will propose the nomination of Mr Lindenbergh to the general meeting of shareholders, who will ultimately appoint the new chairman. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Erik van de Merwe for acting as adviser to Fortis Bank Nederland and as interim chairman of the Supervisory Board. He has done an excellent job in serving the interests of the company and the public. When he took on the role of interim chairman, Mr Van de Merwe expressly stated that, given his other positions, he wished to serve as chairman for a brief period only. We are pleased that he has agreed to stay on as a supervisory director for the coming period.

"We will now focus our attention on the integration. Until this process is completed, we will continue to operate as an independent, autonomous bank. All of us will carry on with renewed confidence in the future."

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