

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Berne Union announces the departure of Secretary-General Kimberly Wiehl**

Kimberly Wiehl will be leaving her post as Secretary-General of the Berne Union, the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers, as of 1 August 2011. After 20 years in the City of London, Ms Wiehl is taking on a senior position in the family company.

She directed the professional activities of the Berne Union for the benefit of the association's 48 member companies for nearly ten years, based at the Secretariat in London. During this time, the membership body has been strengthened by new members joining from both the private and public sector as well as gaining a broader geographical diversity, particularly from developing economies. Collectively the Berne Union's members insured transactions of \$1.4 trillion in 2010.

She led the association's efforts to advocate the important role of the export credit and investment insurance industry in facilitating global trade. She was successful in raising the profile of the industry, through active relationships with many of the world's major financial institutions and supranationals. She has also been instrumental in bringing the interests of the industry to the attention of the Basel Committee regarding their proposals for Basel II and Basel III.

Additionally during her tenure, Ms Wiehl worked closely with the global membership to develop core foundation documents, including the Berne Union Value Statement and Guiding Principles, which culminated in their adoption by all member companies.

The Berne Union would like to thank Ms Wiehl for her dedication and contribution to the success of the association and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

Mr Lennart Skarp, currently Deputy Secretary-General, will assume the position of Acting Secretary-General until such time as a successor is appointed.

Angus Armour
President
Berne Union

Daniel Riordan
Vice President
Berne Union

Note to editors:**About the Berne Union**

The Berne Union (International Union of Credit & Investment Insurers) is the leading international association for the export credit and investment insurance industry. It works for cooperation and stability in cross-border trade by supporting the international acceptance of sound principles in export credits and foreign investments and by providing a forum for professional exchange among its members.

Members

The 48 members of the Berne Union covered over US\$1.4 trillion worth of business in 2010, which is about 10% of the world's total export trade. Members are both private companies, offering worldwide risk management solutions, and state backed export credit agencies, focusing upon the support of national exports and outward investments.

Interaction

Members benefit from the highest quality information exchange through several yearly meetings, seminars and workshops, and interactively online. Exchanges focus on technical aspects of international trade, as well as developing and promoting best practices.

Links

The Berne Union has well established links with other organisations that play important roles in world trade including the ICC, IMF, OECD, World Bank, WTO and regional development banks.

The Acting Secretary-General of the Berne Union is Mr Lennart Skarp, and the Secretariat is based in London.

See www.berneunion.org.uk for more information.

Contact:

Angus Armour
Managing Director & CEO
EFIC
Level 10, Export House
22 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
t +61 (2) 9201 2250
f +61 (418) 213 261
e aarmour@efic.gov.au

or

Lennart Skarp
Acting Secretary-General
Berne Union
27-29 Cursitor Street
London EC4A 1LT
United Kingdom

t +44 20 7841 1110
f +44 20 7430 0375
e lskarp@berneunion.org.uk
w <http://www.berneunion.org.uk>