



## Press Release

### ***Euresa - CO2Solidaire - myclimate initiative: "when carbon offsetting becomes personal"***

**Paris, 20 June 2012 - On this first day of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and as an extension of their commitments and initiatives "Towards Sustainable Development", six European mutual and cooperative insurance groups, all members of Euresa - DEVK, Macif, Maif, Matmut, P&V and IMA - have joined up with GERES and myclimate Foundation to create a climate solidarity® Platform for their 16 million policyholders.**

This shared platform, which is accessible from each of the companies' websites, offers mutual and cooperative policyholders the chance to personally stand up to climate change by reducing their environmental footprint and by voluntarily supporting an international programme of solidarity. The culmination of European-wide cooperation as part of the Euresa EEIG, this initiative is part of the extension of the members' declaration "We are committed by our values" (2002) as well as of the publication "Towards Sustainable Development" (2009).

Developed in partnership with the CO2Solidaire programme run by GERES in France and Belgium and myclimate Foundation in Germany, the platform has been designed as an educational experience allowing everyone to:

- better understand the problems of climate change and discover ways to reduce their environmental footprint through advice and eco-friendly actions;
- calculate the estimated greenhouse gas emissions produced by their car and home, two of the items at the heart of the insurance sector and among the highest contributors to global warming;
- find out about the initiatives being taken by each of the six insurance companies to assess/reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

Macif, Maif, P&V and IMA are also offering their policyholders the chance to offset all or part of their unavoidable emissions by supporting a development project run by GERES in Cambodia since 1997. The aim of this project is to reduce the pressure on forest resources and to combat the energy difficulties experienced by local populations by donating better stoves that make more economical use of wood as fuel. With more than 1.6 million units handed out since 2003, this programme is currently the biggest in the world.

Likewise, DEVK policyholders have the chance to support one of the myclimate Foundation's projects in Madagascar which donates solar-powered and energy-efficient stoves which are better for both the environment and the health of the local people.

**Limiting climate change whilst combating poverty - these are the aims of the Euresa-CO2Solidaire-myclimate platform; an unprecedented European initiative that brings together citizens, mutual and cooperative insurers and NGOs around the same challenge.**



### About Euresa

The Euresa EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping) is an original cooperative and mutual structure that brings together fourteen European insurers from the social economy across 10 EU member states (*DEVK, Germany; MACIF, MAIF and MATMUT, France; the P&V Group, Belgium; UNIPOL, Italy, LAGUN ARO, Spain; LB Group, Denmark; MAMDA-MCMA, Morocco; ATLANTIS, Spain; MACIF Portugal, Portugal; SYNETERISTIKI, Greece; IMA, France*). Collectively they represent nearly 24 million members and clients, more than 37,000 employees and a cumulative turnover of €21 billion. For further details go to [www.euresa.org](http://www.euresa.org).

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### About CO2Solidaire

CO<sub>2</sub>-Solidaire, a non-profit organisation, is known for its experience and is France's leading traditional operator, founded in 2004. Its aim is to provide joint funding for the projects of the NGO GERES on which it is fully dependent. Thanks to GERES, a pioneer in carbon financing, CO2Solidaire has a global view of the carbon finance sector: from the plains to the mountains through partnerships with companies from the North. CO2Solidaire, which has over 130 partner organisations, advocates an ethical approach in which offsetting or reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the North and supporting genuine development programmes are its priorities. For further details go to [www.co2solidaire.org](http://www.co2solidaire.org).



### About GERES

Created in 1976, GERES - the Renewable Energy, Environment and Solidarity Group - is a non-profit association whose work is aimed at improving the living conditions of the poorest communities through projects to provide access to energy, protect the environment and combat climate change and its effects. The association uses development engineering and targeted technical expertise, working in partnership with the local communities and organisations. More than 200 employees are currently running nearly 50 innovative development projects in France and 12 in African and Asian countries. For further details go to [www.geres.eu](http://www.geres.eu).

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### About the Myclimate Foundation - The Climate Protection Partnership

Myclimate is one of the global leaders in voluntary carbon offsetting. Myclimate's environmental protection projects are set apart by their respect for very stringent criteria. In order to implement its environmental protection projects as effectively and sustainably as possible, Myclimate has developed an international network of project partners and representatives who work for Myclimate in their respective countries. Myclimate also carries out CO<sub>2</sub> assessments and raises public awareness about climate change and environmental protection through its projects. For further details go to [www.myclimate.org](http://www.myclimate.org).

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### About the DEVK Versicherungen Group, Germany

With more than 4 million policyholders across Germany representing 13.4 million risks in all areas of insurance, DEVK is a name you can trust. Its customer loyalty is due largely to its local presence with 1,258 branches, 2,251 full-time employees and a further 3,400 part-time advisors. A further commercial asset is its close and long-standing cooperation with Sparda-Banken. In terms of policies, DEVK is the fourth largest home insurer and ranked fifth on the car insurance market in Germany. For further details go to [www.devk.de](http://www.devk.de).

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### About the MACIF Group, France

A socially-responsible company built on sharing, human values and solidarity, Macif has placed social connections at the heart of its business. The mutual group covers the needs of more than 5 million members and clients for property insurance, life insurance, banking, savings, credit, assistance and personal care services. Managing more than 17 million policies as of 1 January 2012, the group recorded a turnover of €5.7 billion in 2011. For further details go to [www.macif.fr](http://www.macif.fr).

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### About the MAIF Group, France

The sixth biggest private damages insurer and the leading non-profit sector insurer, MAIF covers all the needs of its 2.9 million clients (property insurance, welfare, health, assistance, savings, credit etc.). This insurer is frequently acclaimed in the field of customer relations for which it ranks first among French companies across the board. The satisfaction of its clients and their increasing number are evidence of MAIF's success and confirm that the mutual model is a viable alternative to a liberal economy. In 2011, the MAIF Group recorded €3.09 billion in turnover. For further details go to [www.maif.fr](http://www.maif.fr).

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### About the Matmut Group, France

With nearly 3 million members and more than 6.5 million insurance policies under management, the Matmut Group is currently a major player on the French insurance market. It offers everyone - individuals, professionals, companies and associations - a comprehensive range of personal and property insurance products (car, motorcycle, boat, home, liability, family protection, healthcare, legal protection and assistance) as well as financial and savings services (car credit, consumption; savings books, life insurance etc.). The group employs more than 5,300 people and turned over €1.8 billion in 2011. For further details go to [www.matmut.fr](http://www.matmut.fr).

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### About the P&V Group, Belgium

The P&V Group is a Belgian insurance group that sets itself apart by its multi-brand and multi-channel strategy. The group is made up of several different companies: P&V Assurances sells its products through exclusive agents; products created by Vivium, Arces and Piette & Partners are sold through brokers; and Actel sells its products on-line and through car dealerships. The P&V Group's consolidated turnover for 2011 was €1.51 billion.

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### About the Inter Mutuelles Assistance Group, France

The leading assistance provider on the French market, Inter Mutuelles Assistance provides services for more than 45 million people across the globe. This client base includes 35 people insured with one of its shareholder-insurers (more than one in two people in France). The Group's other clients, including European insurance companies, healthcare insurers, brokers, banks, car manufacturers, sporting federations and multinationals etc. represent a further 10 million beneficiaries at least. The Inter Mutuelles Assistance Group currently has 10 assistance platforms in six European countries and North Africa. For further details go to [www.ima.eu](http://www.ima.eu)

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