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**BY COURIER**

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of International Corporate Finance  
Judiciary Plaza  
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USA - Washington, D.C. 20549

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Date 06/09/2004



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Dear Sirs

Enclosed herewith please find the English version of the following press release:

- "Axel P. Lehmann to lead Zurich North America Commercial" dated June 8, 2004

Should there be any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely  
Zurich Financial Services  
Legal Department

*pp. E. Hees*  
Andres Christen

*dlw*  
*6/15*

Enclosure

## Media Release

File No. 82-5089



### **Axel P. Lehmann to lead Zurich North America Commercial**

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Zurich, June 8, 2004 - Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) announced the appointment of Axel P. Lehmann (45) to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zurich North America Commercial (ZNA), effective September 2004. He succeeds John Amore who, as announced on April 2, is assuming his global leadership role as CEO of General Insurance. While John Amore and Axel Lehmann are retaining their current assignments until September, they will soon start the processes to ensure a smooth transition into their new roles.

As Chief Executive of ZNA, Axel Lehmann will oversee all Zurich North America General Insurance activities. The heads of Zurich North America units will report to him, and, on behalf of the Group Executive Committee (GEC), he will provide the GEC leadership for the US Small Business strategy development.

Axel Lehmann joined Zurich in 1996 and held various positions in corporate development and executive management. He was appointed to the Group Management Board in 2000 and he joined the GEC as CEO of the Continental Europe Business Division in March 2002. His successor at the helm of the European General Insurance businesses will be announced at a later date.



**Zurich Financial Services** is an insurance-based financial services provider with a global network that focuses its activities on its key markets in North America and Europe. Founded in 1872, Zurich is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Zurich has offices in more than 50 countries and employs about 62,000 people.

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