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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL  
CORPORATE FINANCE

**BY COURIER**

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of International Corporate Finance  
Judiciary Plaza  
450 Fifth Street, N.W.  
USA - Washington, D.C. 20549

Your reference File No. 82-5089  
Our reference AC/eh  
Date 10/18/2004

SUPPL

**Zurich Financial Services / File No. 82-5089;**  
**Information furnished to maintain Rule 12g 3-2 (b) exemption**

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Dear Sirs

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

- "Zurich Financial Services announces estimates of aggregate hurricane claims payments" dated October 18, 2004

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

Yours sincerely  
Zurich Financial Services  
Legal Department

*pp. E. Christen*  
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Enclosures

*JW*  
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**Zurich Financial Services announces estimates of aggregate hurricane claims payments**

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Zurich, October 18, 2004 – Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) expects aggregate claims payments related to four recent Atlantic hurricanes of approximately USD 525 million before tax and net of reinsurance. This corresponds to approximately USD 400 million after tax and net of reinsurance. Charges for these events will be recorded in the third quarter.

James J. Schiro, Chief Executive Officer of Zurich Financial Services, said: “Reacting to the tragedy caused by this exceptional series of storms was our first duty. Our next step was to estimate the claims payments. As a Group, it is our job to build the quality of earnings and balance sheet strength to be in a position to absorb the cost of claims payments arising from catastrophe events such as these.”

The current estimate of potential claims is based on model calculations and reported claims. The estimate pertains to hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne that struck the Caribbean and the United States between August 10 and September 27, and it includes the claims estimate previously released for hurricane Charley.

According to recent estimates, claims payments for the four storms are likely to exceed USD 20 billion for the insurance industry. This exceeds the former record payment for hurricane Andrew in 1992. Insured losses from Andrew were USD 15.5 billion or roughly USD 20 billion in today’s dollars.

**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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