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

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Dear Sir or Madam

Enclosed herewith please find the English version of the following News Release:

- "Zurich Insurance Ireland Limited is renamed Zurich Insurance plc" dated December 16, 2008

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

Yours sincerely,
Zurich Financial Services

Ulrich Marti
Corporate Legal Adviser

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Zurich Insurance Ireland Limited is renamed Zurich Insurance plc

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Zurich, December 16, 2008 – Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) announced today that Zurich Insurance Ireland Limited (ZiIL), the Group's Ireland-based European general insurance risk carrier, will be changing its name and incorporation status to Zurich Insurance Public Limited Company (ZIP) with effect from January 1, 2009.

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As already announced on May 27, 2008, Markus Hongler, currently CEO of Zurich Switzerland, has been appointed CEO of ZIP, effective January 1, 2009. "Markus has achieved tremendous results in his current function. With his immense knowledge of the European insurance market he will help to drive our European efforts to the next level", remarks Annette Court, CEO, Europe General Insurance (EGI) and Chair of ZIP's board of Directors.

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"This name change will better reflect the increasingly European nature of the entity", says Thomas Hürlimann, CEO, Global Corporate in Europe.

The change of status to ZIP will not change any business relationships, credit ratings or mode of operations. Documentation for all ZIP branches will be updated to reflect this change of name.

Zurich Insurance Public Limited Company (ZIP) (Zurich Insurance Ireland Limited (ZiIL) until December 31, 2008) is Zurich's Ireland-based European general insurance risk carrier. ZIP is a member of the Zurich Financial Services Group and is rated AA-/Stable by Standard & Poor's. It has regulated branches in Belgium, Finland, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands as well as conducting business in Ireland. ZIP's operating

structure provides an efficient and effective platform through which to execute EGI's and Global Corporate's strategies to deliver customized, comprehensive and competitive products, solutions and claims management services to Zurich's personal and commercial customers in those countries in which it is established. ZIP is regulated by the Irish Financial Regulator and is registered in Ireland. Registered office: Zurich House, Ballsbridge Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) is an insurance-based financial services provider with a global network of subsidiaries and offices in North America and Europe as well as in Asia Pacific, Latin America and other markets. Founded in 1872, the Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. It employs approximately 60,000 people serving customers in more than 170 countries.

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