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PRESS RELEASE

Alfonso Carcasona new President of ChamberSign

Alfonso Carcasona has been elected President of ChamberSign, the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry that provides e-Signature in Europe. The elections were held at ChamberSign's Plenary Assembly in Brussels yesterday.

Mr Carcasona highlighted his priorities for next year: *"In 2008, the network will extend to Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. This makes us by far the biggest network of certification providers in Europe. We need to build on this network to promote interoperability of e-Signatures in Europe. Tomorrow, a Swedish company must be able to submit an invoice signed electronically to a Spanish enterprise, and a tender signed electronically by an Italian firm must be recognised by the French procurement authorities."*

"Historically, Chambers of Commerce have been developed to promote trust among commercial and industrial companies. Enhancing secure communication and business practices with authentication certificates is but a normal evolution of their mission," echoed Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES and Member of the Board of ChamberSign.

Mr Carcasona is also CEO of the Spanish Certification Authority 'Camerfirma'. He takes over from Paul Skehan, former Deputy Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES and President of ChamberSign since 2004.

ChamberSign – Promoting e-Signature in Europe

ChamberSign was created in 1999 by EUROCHAMBRES and national associations of Chambers with the aim of educating on and promoting the use of digital signature in Europe. It groups Chambers from Austria, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, representing 478 regional and local Chambers, thus over 11.7 million enterprises, most of which are SMEs.

Since the creation of ChamberSign, its members delivered over 3 million authentication certificates to companies. Companies use them for multiple purposes such as signing VAT declarations online, signing electronic invoices, securing email exchanges or doing electronic Procurement.

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