

# Press release

Brussels /Utrecht, 15 April 2008.

## Fortis named Clearing Service of the Year

**Fortis Clearing was recently named Clearing Service of the Year by the Futures & Options World (FOW) Magazine, a subsidiary of the prestigious Euromoney Group. Fortis was selected by a panel of peers and an online poll.**

In its citation, FOW praised Fortis's capabilities, saying that Fortis was "head and shoulders above others", and chosen for its excellent client relations, global market reach and respected position. "At a time when clearing has grabbed more headlines and column inches in the past few months than in most years, the need for security and peace of mind when it comes to clearing has become tantamount to one's overall business. This company was the name mentioned by far and away ahead of others and that is why Fortis is this year's Clearing Service of the Year."

Marcel Jongmans, CEO of Global Brokerage, Clearing & Custody at Fortis Merchant Banking said: "This significant award is a tribute to Fortis's capabilities in Global Clearing. It reflects our ability to leverage our international network to provide our clients with comprehensive market access to exchange-listed, traditional and non-traditional investment instruments and alternative products. Our intensive focus on our clients clearly sets us apart from our competition."

Fortis offers clearing on more than 60 of the world's leading exchanges for member and non-member market participants alike. It is consistently ranked among the top 3 clearers in every time zone based on amount of turnover and number of clients.

The FOW awards programme is on its second year and attracts nominations from the industry's top financial services providers.

Fortis is an international financial services provider engaged in banking and insurance. We offer our personal, business and institutional customers a comprehensive package of products and services through our own channels, in collaboration with intermediaries and through other distribution partners.

With a market capitalisation of EUR 35.1 billion (31/03/2008), Fortis ranks among the 15 largest financial institutions in Europe. Our sound solvency position, our presence in more than 50 countries and our dedicated, professional workforce of 60,000 enable us to combine global strength with local flexibility and provide our clients with optimum support. More information is available on [www.fortis.com](http://www.fortis.com)

### Fortis Merchant Banking

Fortis Merchant Banking provides high-value tailor-made services to medium-sized companies, large corporates and institutionals. As a worldwide organisation, we have developed special expertise in cash & treasury management, debt, equity and structured finance, trading & financial risk hedging, financial advisory and structuring. We serve commodity producers, traders and distributors all over the world. We are a world leader in fund administration, global custody, securities lending and clearing services.

The Global Clearing team of Fortis Merchant Banking provides a comprehensive range of clearing services for both financial and non-financial products, for market members and non-market members, for start-up businesses and existing clients alike. With our comprehensive screen-based trading solutions, we can also offer electronic access to many of the worlds leading exchanges.

### Fortis

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The range of services dispensed through our international network caters not only for traditional products such as stocks, bonds, futures and options, but also for energy, warrants, forex and many other financial instruments. Our banking network allows clients to access treasury and banking services, including financing and securities lending.

Solid experience and high-quality service have made us a recognised industry leader.

[www.merchantbanking.fortis.com](http://www.merchantbanking.fortis.com)

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