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# Press release

Brussels / Utrecht, 17 december 2004

## **MeesPierson Intertrust acquires Centrapriv**

**Today, MeesPierson Intertrust, a subsidiary of Fortis, and the owners of Centrapriv, a Swiss financial and fiduciary service provider, reached an agreement regarding the sale of 100% of Centrapriv to MeesPierson Intertrust.**

Bart Deconinck, CEO of MeesPierson Intertrust said: 'The acquisition of Centrapriv, a trust and fiduciary company, fits in with MeesPierson Intertrust's strategy to develop its business in certain markets and is complementary to our business in Switzerland. We welcome to our group Centrapriv's staff of experienced professionals, who have been responsible for the success of Centrapriv in recent years.'

Centrapriv's CEO, Enzo Beretta, added: 'We are happy to be joining MeesPierson Intertrust Group, since, for Centrapriv and its clients, it will not only ensure the long-term continuity of the company, but will also give us the comfort and the synergies of being part of a worldwide group with a similar culture to Centrapriv itself. Our long-lasting client relationships will not undergo any changes and the whole team will continue to provide the same services as in the past.'

Centrapriv is a Swiss provider of a full range of tax, legal and fiduciary services – focusing on succession planning and wealth preservation – to mainly high net worth individuals. It has offices in Zürich and Zug and its staff (38 FTEs) are highly experienced and well-trained professionals who have worked for the company for a long time and have built up long-standing relationships with its clients. It is intended that Centrapriv keeps operating under its own brand.

This transaction will have no material impact on Fortis's solvency and net operating profit.

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**MeesPierson Intertrust** is part of MeesPierson, an international provider of Wealth Management, Trust & Corporate Services. MeesPierson offers worldwide integrated services and solutions for asset & liability management to private clients and their businesses as well as to corporate clients and their advisors. MeesPierson has offices in 23 countries and managed EUR 53 billion of assets under management in September 2004. Further information is available on [www.meespierson.com](http://www.meespierson.com) or [www.meespiersonintertrust.com](http://www.meespiersonintertrust.com)

**Fortis** is an integrated financial services provider active in the fields of banking and insurance. With a market capitalization of EUR 25.8 billion (30/11/2004) and around 52,000 employees, Fortis ranks in the top 20 of European financial institutions. In its home market, the Benelux countries, Fortis occupies a leading position which it aims to develop and bolster. Fortis is drawing on the expertise it has acquired in its home market to realize its European ambitions via growth platforms. Fortis also operates successfully worldwide in selected activities. In specific countries in Europe and Asia it effectively exploits its know-how and experience in bancassurance. Fortis is listed on the exchanges of Amsterdam, Brussels and Luxembourg and has a sponsored ADR programme in the United States. More information is available on [www.fortis.com](http://www.fortis.com)

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