

## NEW PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY BUSINESS NETWORK ADVOCATES FAMILY BUSINESS VALUES TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

At a meeting of the Family Business Network in Amsterdam early February, the Board thanked Hans-Jacob Bonnier, Executive Vice-President of Bonnier Group, Sweden, for his important contribution to the development of FBN-International over the last six years and elected Thierry Lombard, Managing Partner of Lombard Odier, as president. Thierry Lombard has been active on the Board for the past 12 years.

The new president is a passionate supporter of the family-owned enterprise model which he believes will remain strong through the economic crisis.

According to Thierry Lombard, 'Many family businesses have overcome crises in the past and emerged stronger. Through the Family Business Network we should help our fellow family businesses around the world to meet today's challenges by benefiting from each other's experience and building on our strengths.'

Stepping up to his new responsibilities in the midst of the economic crisis, Thierry Lombard urges family businesses to continue to demonstrate their strength and the quality of their governance, stating: "The global system is discovering that without deep-rooted human values, economic success cannot last."

Family businesses are a cornerstone of the global economy, thanks to their values of economic, social and environmental responsibility. Taking the long term view, their structure and entrepreneurial approach typically gives them the flexibility to meet challenges while projecting for the future and the generations to come.

Thierry Lombard ended his inaugural statement declaring that family businesses have the collective responsibility – now more than ever – to lead by example and demonstrate that it is "strong human values" that make economic success sustainable through the generations.

### Notes to Editors:

- Family businesses are the backbone and engine of the economy. They make up the majority (at least 60%) of all businesses.
- The Family Business Network (FBN) is The not-for-profit international network that is run by family businesses, for family businesses, with the aim of strengthening success over generations. The FBN has 3000 member firms in 45 countries including 1000 Next Generation members. The association consists of 26 national chapters. Member firms cover many different industries and range in size up to large international corporations.
- Thierry Lombard is the new president of the international Family Business Network. A graduate in Economics, Thierry Lombard joined Lombard Odier (Private Bankers since 1796) in 1972 as a 6th generation member. Managing Partner since 1982, Thierry Lombard became Senior Partner in 1995. Today he is in charge of the strategy for Human Resources and the Communications Unit as well as for the Private Key Clients Unit. He is a Board member of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Science & Technology and chairs the Foundation for the International committee of Red Cross. He is a member of various humanitarian and social foundations and Vice Chairman of the Geneva International Airport. Passionate about and strongly involved in the fields of Family Enterprise and Philanthropy, he is co-writer of several publications dedicated to the latter themes.
- Lombard Odier has been a family business of private bankers for seven generations. Founded in 1796, it is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

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