



ATHENS  
EXCHANGE S.A.



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## FTSE, ATHEX & CSE launch the FTSE/ATHEX-CSE Banking Index

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**London/Athens/Nicosia, 23 October 2008** – Today the Athens Exchange and the Cyprus Stock Exchange in partnership with FTSE Group (“FTSE”), the global index provider, announced the introduction of a new index: the **FTSE/ATHEX-CSE Banking Index**. The new index will be launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 with a starting value of 2,000 index points.

The announcement comes at a period of turbulence in the global economy as a whole and the capital markets in particular. The new Index will focus on the banking sector of the two participating markets and is expected to complement the existing products offered by the two Exchanges. Moreover, it will allow investments in a well-established sector.

The FTSE/ATHEX-CSE Banking index will capture the performance of banks listed on the Athens and Cyprus stock exchanges. The index has been designed to form the basis for financial products that would allow investors to trade the banking sector in a single transaction.

**Spyros Capralos, Chairman, ATHEX**, said: “We are committed along with FTSE to the further development of our markets. The new index aims to provide to market participants a new benchmarking tool for the banking sector of the two markets. The new index will form the basis for financial products offering investors additional ways to gain exposure concurrently to this strong business sector. In the near future we are planning together with CSE to launch derivative products based on this common index giving the option to the investors, exposed to the cash market of the CSE, to gain additional leverage and hedging capabilities. The creation and the calculation of the index as well as the development of new products are performed timely and cost efficiently due to the existence of the common trading platform between the two markets.”

**Imogen Dillon-Hatcher, Managing Director, FTSE Group EMEA** added: “We are delighted to see the expansion of the successful FTSE/ATHEX and FTSE/CSE partnership. These enhancements come as a result of recent consultation with key market participants and prove FTSE’s commitment to ongoing excellence in the index space.”

**George Koufaris, Chairman of the CSE**, added: “Further to the implementation of the Common Platform for trading in the two markets, the new index will provide a useful tool for investors to measure the performance of investment portfolios using FTSE standards. It also creates potential opportunities for the development of innovative investment products, thus enriching the market product on both Exchanges.

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### About the Athens Exchange

Athens Exchange, founded in 1876, is a subsidiary of the Hellenic Exchanges Group. Athens Exchange is the operator of the Greek Cash and Derivatives Markets; Hellenic Exchanges (EXAE SA) provides post-trading services (clearing, settlement & registration of securities). The group is a vertically integrated organization.

In 2008, on average, 38m shares worth €348m and 42.5 thousand contracts are traded in the cash and derivatives markets every day. The market capitalization of the more than 300 listed companies is €81bn. (Oct. 2008).

HELEX is listed in the Athens Exchange since August 2000, one of the first exchanges to go public. Through the expansion of the Common Platform, in operation since Nov. 2006 with the Cyprus Stock Exchange, the HELEX Group aims to become the preeminent regional capital market.

For further details about the Hellenic Exchanges Group please refer to [www.helex.gr](http://www.helex.gr) and [www.athex.gr](http://www.athex.gr)

### **About the Cyprus Stock Exchange**

The Cyprus Stock Exchange started its operations as a legal entity in the form of a public corporate body on the 29th of March of 1996, by virtue of The Cyprus Stock Exchange Laws and Regulations which had been passed by the House of Representatives in 1993 and 1995 respectively. The Cyprus Stock Exchange is a fully regulated Exchange. Its continuous effort is to provide among others a full range of products and services to the market participants, to promote investment in listed securities, to provide liquidity in the market and to create a flexible, competitive and advanced stock exchange, with accountability and transparent transaction implementation.

The Council and Management of the CSE have undertaken many initiatives in the past years with the aim of creating a securities exchange in Cyprus that compares favorably to all the developed stock exchanges in the world. The CSE further aims at strengthening its position in the geographical region and towards this goal it has signed cooperation agreements with the securities exchanges of Athens, Romania, and Egypt.

For further details regarding the Cyprus Stock Exchange please visit CSE's web site [www.cse.com.cy](http://www.cse.com.cy)

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For further details on the FTSE/ATHEX methodology and ground rules please refer to [www.ftse.com](http://www.ftse.com).

### **About FTSE Group**

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indexes. With offices in Beijing, London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, New York, San Francisco, Boston, Shanghai and Tokyo, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It calculates and manages the FTSE Global Equity Index Series, which includes world-recognized indexes ranging from the FTSE All-World Index, the FTSE4Good series and the FTSEurofirst Index series, as well as domestic indexes such as the prestigious FTSE 100. The company has collaborative arrangements with the Athens, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, NASDAQ and Taiwan exchanges, as well as Nomura Securities and Xinhua Finance of China.

FTSE indexes are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indexes to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indexes are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.