Press release
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AU Group strengthens its presence in Europe with the appointments of Christophe Ghyselinck (Belgium & Luxembourg) and Ladislas Cassin (Spain & Portugal)

AU Group, a leading broker and advisory firm specialising in credit risk and policy management and working capital financing, with a presence across Europe's key markets, announces the appointment of Christophe Ghyselinck as Head of AU Group Belgium & Luxembourg and Ladislas Cassin as Head of AU Group Iberica. With these two appointments, AU Group reaffirms its objective to be a key player in Europe.

AU Group continues its development strategy in Europe, which remains the largest market for most European companies as well as the main region for trade credit insurance. To accelerate this development and strengthen its proximity to clients, two strategic appointments have been made across the Belgian, Luxembourg and Iberian markets. Christophe Ghyselinck and Ladislas Cassin, both experts in trade credit insurance, financing and surety solutions, will work alongside Christophe Hardt - Head of Benelux, and Stephan Haushofer – Deputy CEO -, to roll out the Group's international strategy defined with Louis Bollaert, CEO of AU Group.

"I am delighted with the appointments of Christophe Ghyselinck and Ladislas Cassin. Their drive, expertise and understanding of the challenges companies face as they grow will be valuable assets for both our clients and our ambitions. We are convinced that the European market continues to offer significant opportunities, despite an increasingly complex environment. Companies looking to seize these opportunities can rely on our local presence and first-hand knowledge of the market, providing them with valuable perspective on what the market can offer and, ultimately, solutions tailored to their needs. Christophe and Ladislas will play a strategic role in both our development and that of our clients," says **Louis Bollaert, CEO of AU Group**.

Christophe Ghyselinck appointed Head of AU Group Belgium & Luxembourg

The Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) is a dynamic market where AU Group continues to expand its presence with the appointment of Christophe Ghyselinck, following the opening of its Belgian office in 2014 and its Dutch office in 2024.

Christophe will drive AU Group's commercial development across the region, structure its activities and help build long-term relationships with clients and its network of partners, insurers and factors.

Christophe obtained a Master's degree in Business Economics, in 2011. After graduating, he began his career in a commercial role at a Belgian bank. In 2015, he joined ADD, a Belgian multi-line insurance broker and member of KBC Group, where he became part of the Trade Credit Insurance department. Following a short period in a back-office role, Christophe moved into a commercial position before taking over as Head of the Trade Credit Insurance department in 2021. Over ten years, Christophe and his team tripled the volume of business, driven by winning major international accounts and the development of Structured Solutions and Political Risk Insurance for financial institutions.

"I am very excited to contribute to AU Group's international development in the Benelux. My knowledge of the market and expertise in trade credit insurance, financing, structured solutions and political risk, combined with AU Group's strong position among market players, will enable us to provide the best possible response to companies' needs," says **Christophe Ghyselinck, Head of AU Group Belgium & Luxembourg**.

Ladislas Cassin appointed Head of AU Group Iberica

With more than 25 years of experience in the Iberian market, serving several hundred clients ranging from SMEs and mid-sized companies to large corporates across a wide range of industries, AU Group Iberica is entering a new phase of growth in Spain and Portugal with the appointment of Ladislas Cassin.

Ladislas will lead the existing team and be responsible for accelerating AU Group's growth in Spain and Portugal, combining client retention, business development, recruitment and external growth opportunities.

Ladislas holds a Master's degree from Audencia Business School in Nantes and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from Alfonso X El Sabio University in Madrid. He began his career in banking as an analyst at Natixis before joining Schneider Electric's Group Treasury team. He then moved into debt advisory and renegotiation at Finance Active. Ladislas joined AU Group in September 2014 as a broker, developing extensive expertise in trade credit insurance, political risk, factoring and surety. Working closely with clients ranging from SMEs to major international groups, he combines a strong financial analysis background with a resolutely client-focused approach. Since 2025, Ladislas has played an active role in supporting and driving the commercial development of the Group's Spanish subsidiary. He succeeds José Antonio Merodio de la Sota.

"I know the potential of AU Group Iberica, which benefits from a highly committed team that has been supporting its clients for many years in a dynamic market underpinned by economic growth. Working alongside them and drawing on the experience I have gained in the industry over the past 12 years, I am committed to continuing the subsidiary's development by strengthening client relationships, accelerating our sales momentum and identifying new growth opportunities. I am taking a long-term approach, with the conviction that we will achieve this together. Our position as close observers of the real economy is a real strength for both our clients and our insurance partners," concludes **Ladislas Cassin, Head of AU Group Iberica**.

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About AU Group
AU Group is an insurance brokerage and advisory firm specialising in credit and political risk insurance, factoring and surety. Its mission is to support companies at every stage of their lifecycle, helping them grow and secure their transactions in an ever-changing world. To achieve this, AU Group arranges insurance for commercial transactions against non-payment risks and for export contracts and assets against political risks, as well as facilitating access to financing and bonding solutions. Through ongoing dialogue with its clients worldwide — of all sizes, types and sectors — as well as with insurers and banks, AU Group acts as a privileged observer of the

real economy. This insight is shared daily with its clients to help them decipher economic and geopolitical trends.

A family-owned and pioneering company founded in 1929, AU Group now brings together more than 300 experienced specialists across over 50 countries, supporting its clients' finance and credit risk departments from the design of solutions through to their day-to-day operational management.