

Business Insu

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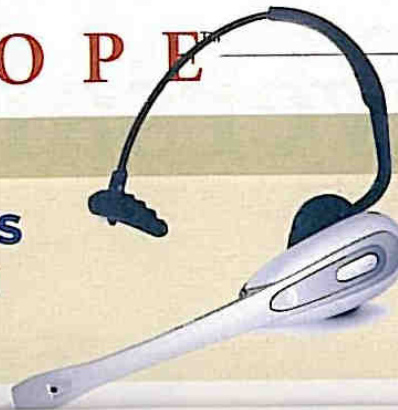
EUROPE

AFRICAN AIRCRASH

**AIRLINE INSURANCE
MARKET SOFTENS AT
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SECTOR BRIEFING

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TACKLE EMF AND BI
RISKS/P11-15**



the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Climate will become a more pressing issue; FERMA

IPCC report highlighted the role of risk management in mitigating damage from global warming

By Sarah Veysey

[BRUSSELS, Belgium]—Climate change will grow in importance for European risk managers, according to the Federation of European Risk Management Associations.

In its response to a United Nations-sponsored report that highlighted the role of risk management in the mitigation of climate change effects, Brussels, Belgium-based FERMA said that climate change will become a more pressing issue for risk managers as their companies attempt to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

U.N. assessment

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body of experts established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environmental Programme, published its

fourth assessment report in Bangkok, Thailand earlier this month.

The report highlighted the importance of mitigation in managing the effects of climate change, and stated that changes in lifestyle and behavior patterns can contribute to climate change mitigation across all sectors.

"Decision making about the appropriate level of global mitigation over time involves an iterative risk management process that includes mitigation and adaptation, taking into account actual and avoided climate change damages, co-benefits, sustainability, equity and changes to risk," according to the report.

Marie-Gemma Dequae, president of FERMA and risk manager for N.V. Bekaert S.A., said she believed that as companies seek to address climate change, risk managers

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PolRisk is backed to join FERMA

Association hosts first conference

By Richard Miller

[WARSAW, Poland]—Poland's year-old risk management association, known as PolRisk, is a step closer to



Rafal Rudnicki.

becoming a member of the Federation of European Risk Management Associations.

Pierre Sonigo, secretary general of Brussels, Belgium-based FERMA, said in an interview at

PolRisk's first conference last week that he will be recommending to FERMA's board of directors that PolRisk be the official Polish member of the organization.

PolRisk's membership will be taken up by FERMA at its June board meeting in Brussels.

"It seems to us that PolRisk is

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By Mic

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POLRISK: FERMA plans

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mature now," noted Mr. Sonigo, who besides being a speaker at the PolRisk conference, said he was here on a fact-finding mission to report to FERMA President Marie-Gemma Dequae on the association.

One concern has been whether PolRisk meets FERMA's requirement that member associations have two distinct categories of membership—one for risk managers and another for affiliated professions, such as brokers, insurers and consultants.

"If PolRisk meets this criterion I think they should become a member of FERMA," Mr. Sonigo said.

Currently, PolRisk has just over 50 members, about half of whom are company risk managers, according to the association.

"Excellent news," responded Rafal Rudnicki, PolRisk's board president after being told of Mr. Sonigo's comments.

"It will be a milestone," said Mr. Rudnicki, who is group risk manager for the Poznan, Poland-based Raben Group.

"Being with FERMA we first of all have access to know-how ... and it is especially important for us in Poland as we are only starting with risk management. So, to be able to continue the right way, we need the best reference point, which in Europe is FERMA," he said.

At the conference, PolRisk high-

lighted the topics of enterprise risk management, environmental liabilities, and the role of risk managers in companies.

"I have been very pleased with what I have seen so far and the level of discussions," Mr. Sonigo said.

An issue for FERMA and PolRisk has been that a second association in Warsaw, the Risk Management Forum/Polish Confederation of Private Employers, also applied for FERMA membership. However, Mr. Rudnicki said his attempts to make contact with them—and possibly merge the groups—have received no response.

Jerzy Zak, a spokesman for the Risk Management Forum, said by phone that the rules governing his forum—founded in September 2005—may not be compatible with that of FERMA's. As part of a larger confederation, the forum's membership is restricted to confederation members, he said. Mr. Zak added his group would contact FERMA about the situation.

Concerning its membership procedures, Mr. Rudnicki said PolRisk's statutes have a regular membership for individual risk managers and a supporting membership for companies or institutions.

PolRisk's board later passed an act that said, "at least for the time being, persons related to brokerage or insurance will only be supporting members," he said.