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LexisNexis Publishes Lex Mundi's Pan-European Union Survey on "The European Company (Societas Europaea)"

Survey Provides In-depth Overview of Legislation Adopted in Each of the Twenty-Seven EU Member States

(HOUSTON, September 23, 2008) Lex Mundi's pan-European Union Survey on the "The European Company (Societas Europaea)" has been published by LexisNexis, a leading global provider of business information services. The survey provides in-depth overviews of the legislation adopted in each of the twenty-seven European Union member states regarding Europe's new legal entity for businesses, Societas Europaea, the "SE", also known as The European Company. The survey was compiled by the European members of the Lex Mundi Cross-Border Transactions Practice Group and has been licensed to LexisNexis. It is available online to LexisNexis® subscribers at www.lexis.com.

The statute for The European Company/SE was created by the Council of the European Union (EU) and became subject to European Community law in all EU member states on October 8, 2001. The statute provides a form of company common to all EU member states based on a single set of rules and a unified management system that can move freely across national borders by way of merger and transfer of registered office.

Christel Van den Eynden, a partner with Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick, Lex Mundi's member firm for Belgium, and Chair-Elect of the Lex Mundi Cross-Border Transactions Practice Group, commented, "The European Company/SE offers a new European operating perspective for businesses by allowing them to extend their activities beyond their home member state and operate throughout the EU. Since 2001, the European Company/SE has seen a promising and growing success and SE's have surfaced throughout the European Union in a wide variety of sectors, including financial services, insurance, manufacturing and real estate."

Regulation on the statute of a European Company/SE refers on numerous occasions to the provisions of the national laws of the individual EU member states, which can have widely different company laws. Further commented Van den Eynden, "This means that companies have to comply with many different regulatory systems, and the merger of companies from different states is often complex and difficult. Our goal in developing this survey was to provide an overview of the laws in each EU member state implementing the legislation necessary for accurate insight into the formation and operation of a European Company."

Among the many topics covered in each of the survey's twenty-seven EU member state overviews are National Implementing Legislation, Establishment of an SE, Articles of Association, Capital, Registration Requirements and Post-Establishment Formalities, Requirements Regarding Registered Office, Management, General Meetings of Shareholders, Taxation, Employee Participation, Dissolution, Minority Shareholder Rights and Publication Requirements.

Barbara Cooperman, Global Chief Marketing Officer for LexisNexis, added, "We are committed to helping our customers successfully navigate the international landscape, particularly as working across borders continues to be an area of strategic importance to the legal market. Lex Mundi's pan-European Union Survey is one of the most comprehensive studies available to date, and we are delighted to partner with them to make this valuable content available to our subscribers."

Lex Mundi's Cross-Border Transactions Practice Group is composed of transactional lawyers from Lex Mundi's 160 member firms worldwide who specialize in the areas of merger and acquisitions, joint ventures and alliances, project finance, corporate finance and venture capital. Through close collaboration and a common set of working methods and service standards, member firm lawyers are able to provide high-quality assistance when advising clients on cross-border transactions. To learn more about the Lex Mundi Cross-Border Transactions Practice Group, please visit http://www.lexmundi.com/lexmundi/Cross-border_Trans_Profile.asp.

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