

## ROAM mutuals seek «to push back the frontiers»

**At the 5th Mutual Insurance Conference, held on 21 November 2011, in Paris, the companies in ROAM expressed their desire to work with other groups of mutuals in France and Europe in order to take up together the challenges they are all facing.**

*Paris, 21 November 2011* – The mutuals of ROAM at the 5th Rendez-vous de l'Assurance Mutuelle launched the idea of a united front in the French mutual movement in order to defend the specific governance model of people-based companies that are grappling with an economic crisis.

In response to the unsteady economy in Europe and around the world, mutual insurance companies and paritarian institutions are playing a stabilising role in the insurance sector and health care coverage. The new Solvency II regulations must not call into question this efficient and long-standing model. It is therefore important that we all work together to demonstrate its value to the regulators, supervisors and all the French and European policy-making bodies.

### Many challenges remain to be taken up :

- **The quest for new ways of financing mutuals in the run-up to Solvency II.** According to Dominique Godet, general manager of SHAM, “While there are some solutions, they remain unsatisfactory and some have yet to be devised.” Olivier Désert, President of ROAM, general manager of the Mutuelle de Poitiers Assurances, noted that “Without questioning the status of mutuals, the certificate of associate co-ops, which is used by credit unions, is an avenue that we could explore.”
- **The creation of a European Mutual.** All the French mutual families are acting to achieve the recognition of a European Mutual, in particular with a view to the forthcoming application of Solvency II. While some mutuals are hesitant, the Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) is loud and clear in its call for a European Mutual, as confirmed by Pedro Blek da Dilva, co-president of AIM's Task Force Europe. For his part, Marcel Kahn, vice-president of AMICE and general manager of the MACSF Group, highlighted the opportunity of the publication of the European Parliament report on The role of mutuals in the 21st century. The report underscores their importance to the European insurance industry.
- **The continuation of the mutualist governance model.** All the groups involved in the mutual and paritarian movement, i.e. FFSAM, ROAM, GEMA, FNMF and CTIP, confirmed at their first meeting that above and beyond their specific characteristics (they are governed by three codes – insurance, mutuals and social security), all comprise not-for-profit companies without shareholders who require remuneration. “The things we have in common are greater than those that separate us.”, asserted André Renaudin, vice-president of ROAM and general manager of AG2R-La Mondiale, a group made up of mutual insurance companies and paritarian institutions.

• **The Solvency II deadline.** The supervisor, represented by Danièle Nouy, general secretary of ACP, and the regulator, represented by Maya Attig, sub-director Insurance at the Treasury Department, both recognised that mutuals were on the right path in preparing for the requirements of Solvency II and they urged them to continue in their efforts. Jean François Allard, managing director of MAF, and Marcel Kahn stressed that mutuals were still anxiously awaiting the final texts, in particular concerning pillar 3 “Reporting”, which should usher in a significant remodelling of information systems.

**The mutual movement has decided to push back the frontiers in order to devise new financing sources, stake out a common position on the European Mutual and move beyond the various code-related issues in order to return to the basics of common governance. At the same time, the companies gathered at the 5th Rendez-Vous de l'Assurance Mutuelle called on the political and regulatory authorities to define together the rules that will apply to them within the next two years in order to complete at last preparations for Solvency II.**

#### About ROAM :

The Réunion des Organismes d'Assurance Mutuelle (ROAM) is a professional syndicate that has been assisting mutual insurance companies for more than 150 years. It brings together professional mutual insurers that are national and regional in scope as well as general and specialised insurance providers, who handle distribution with or without commissioned intermediaries. The mutual insurance companies in ROAM generated more than 11 billion euros in turnover in 2010, equal to around 7% of the French insurance market and more than 39% of the construction insurance market in France, as well as more than 58% of the French medical civil liability market.

ROAM have set up a website available in 4 languages FR, EN, DE, ES to warn about the potential danger of the solvency II directive : [www.stopsolvency2.com](http://www.stopsolvency2.com)

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