

Press release  
Federation of European Risk Management Associations  
Prague 5 October 2009

## **FERMA FORUM OPENS**

Today, the 2009 Forum of the Federation of European Risk Management Associations (FERMA) opens in Prague with the theme of the future of risk management in the global village. It brings together more than 1,000 risk professionals from over 30 countries to discuss issues like the impact of the financial crisis, the insurance market, European Union regulations and sustainable development, over the next three days.

The Forum takes place every two years in a different European city. Prague is the venue this year since the Czech risk management association, ASPAR CZ, is the newest member of FERMA and holding the conference here will bring risk management to the attention of the Czech business community.

In addition to ASPAR, the members of FERMA are the risk management associations of 15 other European countries, who together represent over 4,000 individual risk managers. The largest groups at the Forum come from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, but the event also draws risk professionals from far away, including the United States, India, Korea and Turkey. There is also an exhibition with more than 50 service providers.

A distinctive feature of the FERMA Forum is the programme of workshops all presented by national risk management associations. ASPAR has joined forces with the Russian association, RusRisk, to organise a workshop on the subject of sustainable development. Petr Holecěk, the risk and environmental manager of the Czech company Plzensky Prozdroj, is the speaker from ASPAR.

The growth of risk management in the Czech Republic dates from the liberalization of the economy which brought new participants into the insurance market, such as international insurance brokers. They showed their clients that insurance was just part of a package of measures to protect businesses against the impact of unforeseen events.

Some leading Czech companies began appointing risk and insurance managers. The risk managers started getting together, informally at first, and then formally registering their association ASPAR in 2007. A year later, ASPAR joined FERMA. Its chairman is Jana Bicanová, corporate insurance supervisor for Telefónica O2 Czech Republic for the Czech Republic and the company's subsidiary in Slovakia.



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS  
FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DE RISK MANAGEMENT

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