

Press Release

Brussels, 10 February 2022

European mutual and cooperative insurers strengthen their commitment to sustainability

AMICE becomes supporting institution for the UN Environment Programme Principles for Sustainable Insurance; launches new sustainability body

The Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe ([AMICE](#)), the voice of the mutual and cooperative insurance sector in Europe, is proud to announce that it has become a supporting institution of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative Principles for Sustainable Insurance ([UNEP PSI](#)). The PSI Initiative is a global framework for the insurance industry to address environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. It is the largest collaborative initiative between the United Nations (UN) and the insurance industry.

The Principles are a clear, stated and public commitment to sustainability goals. They are aligned with European sustainability objectives.

AMICE President Grzegorz Buczkowski said: “Sustainability and long-term protection are at the heart of the mutual/cooperative insurance model. On behalf of mutual and cooperative insurers across Europe, AMICE supports and encourages the commitments and ambitions of the Principles for Sustainable Insurance to ensure transparency, accountability and the future security of policyholders, society and economies. AMICE believes that sustainability is crucial for a viable future for all.”

Complementing AMICE’s status as a supporting institution of the UNEP PSI, AMICE has established a Sustainability Working Group. The newly formed group further progresses members’ adoption of the sustainability agenda alongside AMICE’s advocacy work, focussing on the European Green Deal, sustainable finance and related policy developments.

Virginia Antonini, Head of Sustainability and Corporate Communication at Italian mutual insurer [Reale Group](#), has been appointed Chair of AMICE’s Sustainability Working Group. “Insurers, and mutual insurers in particular, have a central role to play in facing the global sustainability challenges of today and tomorrow,” said Ms Antonini. “Mutuality is the purpose which must lead the way towards generating positive impacts on the communities in which we operate, and at Reale Mutua we are convinced that the pursuit of common good must be at the core of our business. AMICE offers an incredible opportunity to connect and exchange with members throughout Europe and discuss issues which are high on the European agenda. I am therefore honoured and proud to have been appointed as Chair of the AMICE Sustainability Working Group, which will work with a bottom-up approach towards common goals with a global perspective and local actions.”

Ms Antonini welcomed the announcement of AMICE’s status as a supporting institution of the UNEP PSI. “Today, we are proud to publicly sign up to these Principles which are, in fact, a confirmation of how mutual insurers as represented by AMICE actually operate in practice,” she said.

AMICE Secretary General Sarah Goddard added: “Becoming a supporting institution of the UNEP PSI is public recognition of how mutual and cooperative insurers in Europe contribute to the long-term security of their members/policyholders and wider society through their values, focussed on the goals of the sustainability agenda.”

AMICE’s new role as a supporting institution reinforces the commitments already made by several of its members as signatory companies to the UNEP PSI, and enables other mutual and cooperative insurers in Europe to engage with the Principles to strengthen their sustainability activities and contribute to society’s long-term resilience. AMICE will focus on sustainability as one of the key themes of this year’s [AMICE Congress](#), which will be held in Wiesbaden/Mainz, Germany in June.

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Notes to editors

About AMICE (Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe)

The Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe aisbl ([AMICE](#)) is the voice of the mutual and cooperative insurance sector in Europe. The Brussels-based association advocates for appropriate and fair treatment of all mutual and cooperative insurers in a European Single Market. It also encourages the creation and development of innovative solutions for the benefit of European citizens and society.

Typically, mutual/cooperative insurers have no external shareholders, and profits are applied to the benefit of mutual members/policyholders in accordance with the long-term culture of the mutual business model. Mutual and cooperative insurance follows the principles of solidarity and sustainability, and is characterised by customer-membership and democratic governance.

EU mutual and cooperative insurers account for more than 30% of the European insurance market share, and range from some of the smallest to some of the largest insurers in Europe.

To learn more, visit www.amice-eu.org

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