

Paris, July 25, 2006

The Executive Life matter

**the Californian judge approves a plea agreement between
the Federal Prosecutor of Los Angeles and
Jean-François Hénin.**

This agreement puts an end to the penal prosecution

Mr. Jean-François Hénin, Chairman of the Management Board of Maurel & Prom, wishes to inform the shareholders of Maurel & Prom of the settlement entered into with the Federal Prosecutor of Los Angeles which has been approved by a decision of the judge in Los Angeles :

- Mr. Jean-François Hénin reminds that the facts are connected with his functions at Altus Finance and were never related to Maurel & Prom.
- Mr. Jean-François Hénin has accepted the proposal made to him to appear before the American Judge. All necessary assurances had been given to him in advance that he would retain freedom of movement. The agreement which has taken place, and which has been approved, takes place within the frame of a specific guilty plea which enables the relevant person to declare that he maintains that he is innocent in relation to the facts reproached to him but agrees to plead guilty owing to circumstances and to put an end to the matter.
- Jean-François Hénin will have to pay personally a fine of one million dollars and shall be prohibited to travel to the United States for a 5-year period. For the rest of it, he has recovered a complete freedom of action.
- This decision puts an end to the penal prosecution against Mr. Jean-François Hénin in the Executive Life matter.

Mr. Jean-François Hénin has made the following statement:

"Everything being equal, I am satisfied with this decision made by the American justice which puts an end to a painful period for my family and myself.

I have decided to present myself freely before the American Judge since it had been offered to me to have the benefit of the guilty plea whilst maintaining my declaration of innocence (the Alford and Alber precedent). This choice has appeared to me better than a long and painful trial. The American Judge has very precisely noted and accepted my agreement on a guilty plea accompanied by my declaration that I maintained my innocence and this within the judicial precedent. From now on, I plan

to continue to dedicate myself, with a renewed energy, to create value for the shareholders of Maurel & Prom."

This press release may contain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, business, strategy and plans of Maurel & Prom. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will or may occur in the future. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions which we believe are reasonable but that could ultimately prove inaccurate and are subject to a number of risk factors, including but not limited to price fluctuations in crude oil; exchange rate fluctuations; uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of oil reserves; actual future production rates and associated costs; operational problems; political stability; changes in laws and governmental regulations; wars and acts of terrorism or sabotage.

Maurel & Prom is listed on Eurolist of Euronext Paris – compartment A - CAC mid 100 Index
Isin **FR0000051070** / Bloomberg **MAU.FP** / Reuters **MAUP.PA**

INVESTOR RELATIONS

Financial Dynamics

Laurent Wormser

Tel.: +33 1 47 03 68 55

Mob: +33 6 13 12 04 04

Laurent.Wormser@fd.com

Pierre Mas

Tel.: +33 1 47 03 68 14

Mob: +33 6 79 44 66 55

Pierre.Mas@fd.com