

PRESS RELEASE

Mediahuis acquires Luxembourg media group Saint-Paul Luxembourg

Luxembourg/Antwerp, 27 April 2020 - **Mediahuis NV, with operations in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland, has just acquired all the shares of media group Saint-Paul Luxembourg SA. The acquisition by Mediahuis will enable Luxembourg's largest media group to accelerate the digital transformation of its brands and organisation.**

Lafayette SA, manager of the economic assets of the Archdiocese of Luxembourg and parent company behind the media group Saint-Paul Luxembourg, has reached agreement with Mediahuis on the acquisition of the Luxembourg media group. Saint-Paul Luxembourg publishes the titles "Luxembourg Times", "Télécran", "Contacto" and, of course, Luxembourg's oldest newspaper, "Luxemburger Wort", which is the clear market leader and reaches more than 150,000 readers every day in print and more than 100,000 readers through its news site www.wort.lu.

The acquisition by Mediahuis will enable Saint-Paul Luxembourg to speed up its digital transformation project and to develop new products and services while making full use of the expertise and scale offered by Mediahuis as a group.

For Mediahuis this acquisition means a geographical expansion into the prosperous and dynamic region of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and a strengthening of its position as a leading media player in the Benelux countries and Ireland.

Lafayette, hitherto the main shareholder in Saint-Paul Luxembourg, remains involved in the further development of the group through a minority stake in Mediahuis.

The further development and digital transition of the Luxembourg media group will take place in close cooperation with the current management of Saint-Paul Luxembourg and will build on the talent of its employees. At the same time, Mediahuis will ensure continuity thanks to the retention of two existing Luxembourg directors on the continuing board of directors of Saint-Paul Luxembourg, namely François Pauly as chairman and Marc Wagener as director. Mediahuis also confirms Paul Peckels as CEO and Roland Arens, Claude Feyereisen and Marc Schlamme as editors-in-chief. The current editorial line of the news brands of Saint-Paul Luxembourg will be continued with respect, among other things, for the way in which these titles report on religious topics and ecclesiastical communication.

Pit Hentgen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lafayette: *"Mediahuis is an ideal partner for Saint-Paul Luxembourg: solid, innovative and respectful. This means that the DNA of our two organisations fits well together. The partnership with Mediahuis guarantees that Saint-Paul Luxembourg, as Luxembourg's largest media group, will retain its identity and local roots"*.

Gert Ysebaert, CEO Mediahuis Group: *"The mix of nationalities and cultures, combined with a prosperous and innovative business climate, make the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg an interesting geographical expansion for our group. Mediahuis unconditionally believes in the power of strong and independent journalism. The news titles of Saint-Paul Luxembourg, including Luxemburger Wort, Luxembourg's oldest and largest daily newspaper, are therefore a fine addition to our brand portfolio. We are proud that our group now includes three leading quality newspapers in the Benelux area: De Standaard in Belgium, NRC Handelsblad in the Netherlands and Luxemburger Wort in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Over the past few years, Mediahuis has been able to build extensive expertise in the digital transformation of our organisation, our brands and our products and services. Thanks to this experience and the scale of our group, the media brands of Saint-Paul Luxembourg can now accelerate their digital transition and continue to develop in the current digital context, while respecting their history"*.

The European media group Mediahuis was created in 2013 as a joint venture between Corelio and Concentra, two companies with a long history in Belgian publishing. Today, Mediahuis is a leading international multimedia company with a diversified portfolio and news brands such as Het Nieuwsblad and De Standaard in Flanders and NCR Handelsblad, De Telegraaf and De Limburger in the Netherlands. In July 2019, Mediahuis took its first ambitious steps in the English-speaking market with the acquisition of the Irish media group Independent News & Media PLC (INM), publisher of titles including the Irish Independent, Sunday Independent and the Belfast Telegraph.

For more information, please contact us:

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About Mediahuis

The European media group Mediahuis has built up a strong portfolio of news media and digital brands since its foundation in 2013. Thanks to several acquisitions, the group has experienced rapid growth and is now one of the leading multimedia companies in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland. With more than 3,700 employees, Mediahuis achieves annual sales of around EUR 1 billion. Mediahuis is the publisher of several press titles, including De Standaard, Het Nieuwsblad/De Gentenaar, Gazet van Antwerpen and Het Belang van Limburg in Belgium, NRC Handelsblad, nrc.next, De Telegraaf, Noordhollands Dagblad and De Limburger in the Netherlands, and Irish Independent, Sunday Independent, the Herald, Sunday World, Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Together, these titles provide daily news to more than 10 million readers, digitally and in print. In addition to these information brands, Mediahuis operates a number of leading digital classified ads platforms in Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland, particularly in the real estate, employment and recruitment and automotive markets. In Belgium, the group is also active in the local radio (Nostalgie, NRJ Vlaanderen) and television (ATV, TVL, TVO and ROB TV) markets. More information about Mediahuis can be found at www.mediahuis.be/en.