

Media release

## **Course set for EU-compatible fund regulation**

**Basel, 28 January 2009 – The Swiss Funds Association SFA (SFA) welcomes today's decision by the Federal Council to adapt Article 31 of the Collective Investment Schemes Ordinance (CISO) in line with EU law. Together with the planned changes in FINMA's practice with regard to the authorization of foreign UCITS, Swiss regulation now corresponds to European standards, thus enhancing Switzerland's attractiveness as a distribution market.**

Within the framework of the Financial Sector Dialogue Steering Committee (STAFI), FINMA in conjunction with the SFA and the other bodies behind the Masterplan highlighted the fact that Art. 31 CISO deviated from the European standards, resulting *de facto* in obstacles to trade. With the amendment approved by the Federal Council today and other measures planned by FINMA, these formal impediments will be removed. This will bolster the appeal of Switzerland as a distribution market. The changes will enter into force on 1 March 2009.

"Regulation in the financial sector must be coordinated internationally if it is to bring its full effectiveness to bear. Special regulations on a national level lead to additional costs and obstacles to competition, which are ultimately detrimental to investors. The SFA is therefore actively committed to removing mutual barriers to market access. Today's decision by the Federal Council coupled with other measures planned by FINMA represents a key element of the Masterplan," said Dr. Gérard Fischer, President of the SFA. "Investors will also profit from Swiss funds being regulated in an EU-compliant manner and from the authorization of foreign UCITS not being made more difficult by the imposition of special Swiss rules. In future, investors will have a broader selection of Swiss and foreign products at their disposal," said SFA CEO Dr. Matthäus Den Otter.

### **Contact:**

Dr. Matthäus Den Otter, CEO of the Swiss Funds Association SFA, tel. +41 61 278 98 00

The Swiss Funds Association SFA was established in 1992 and its activities are focused on ensuring optimal frameworks for its 145 members in Switzerland. Its members include almost all Swiss fund management companies, numerous representatives and asset managers of collective investment schemes, as well as law firms, audit companies and other service providers in the fund and asset management sector. These cover around 95% of the assets of funds distributed in Switzerland. The SFA is a member of EFAMA and the IIFA, the European and international umbrella organizations of the fund and asset management industry.