

**For immediate release**

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***PRUDENTIA CAPITAL INVESTS IN THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK OF METZ-AMNEVILLE***

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The future of the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville is ensured by a new benchmark investor and majority shareholder: Prudentia Capital, a French fund specializing in the recapitalization and growth of French and European small and mid-sized companies. Prudentia Capital underlines the importance of the agreement reached with the financial partners of the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville, which allows its full refinancing. The Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville regains financial leeway, preserves all its jobs and ensures its sustainability.

This agreement was validated today by the Commercial Chamber of the Metz Regional Court, which accepted the request to modify the recovery plan filed by the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville. In addition, the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville is transformed into a private company in accordance with the legal procedure necessitating the approval of the "Conseil Supérieur de la Coopération" (national entity supervising worker cooperatives) and the authorization of the competent State authorities, which have all been granted.

Founded in 1986 by Michel Louis and Jean Marc Vichard, the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville is the 2<sup>nd</sup> French zoo in terms of the size of its animal collection (approximately 2,000 animals from 5 continents) and the quality of its infrastructure, which spans more than 18 hectares. With an average turnover of 15 million euros, and attendance which exceeded 600,000 visitors per year, the Park aims to play a key role in the economic and touristic development of the department of Moselle and the Grand-Est region, in connection with local players and institutions.

"One of the most important zoos in France has been saved, this is excellent news for the attractiveness of the entire region. It is a relief for its employees, dedicated to animal welfare and the protection of endangered species, whose elected representatives have approved our growth project. We thank all the parties involved in the negotiations for their professionalism, their mobilization and their composure, which enabled these discussions to find a positive outcome" comments Roland Germain, President of Prudentia Capital.

"This is a new start for one of the most beautiful animal collections in Europe, in high quality infrastructure and taken care of by highly competent staff. Our goal is to position the Park among the most visited in Europe by enhancing its attractiveness, its reputation and its attendance. Our philosophy remains that of its founders, the protection of magnificent species evolving in total harmony in a preserved environment", said Dominik Zwerger, Partner of Prudentia Capital.

"Prudentia Capital stood out by its enlightened approach to business management and proven experience in complex situations and negotiations. Their arrival was crucial to help us overcome the situation of over-indebtedness and secure our future. This partnership will

help improve the management of the Park by providing new skills, and will allow the zoo team to act even more effectively on the continuous improvement of the animals' quality of life, on awareness and education of the public, and on the conservation of biodiversity” adds Michel Louis, founder of the Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville.

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### **About Amnéville Zoological Park:**

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The Zoological Park of Metz-Amnéville participates in the conservation of vulnerable and endangered species according to the Red List of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and according to the Washington Convention (CITES, EC Regulation) with more than 200 births of rare species in the last three years, including 1 mandrill, 1 orangutan from Sumatra, 4 lions from South Africa, 11 white Arctic wolves, 1 giant anteater, 3 rhinos, 1 amphibious hippopotamus, 1 tapir, 8 Humboldt penguins, 6 damselfish cranes, 1 ground hornbill, 4 royal pythons, 10 rainbow boas, 1 giant tortoise from Madagascar, etc.

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### **About Prudentia Capital:**

Prudentia Capital is an independent and privately-owned asset management firm based in Paris, licensed by the French Financial Markets Authority (Autorité des Marchés Financiers - AMF), supporting the growth of established French and European small and mid-sized companies.

Prudentia Capital's philosophy is based on a close relationship with management teams, a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and a firm commitment to transparency and accountability. The team strives to create value for both entrepreneurs and investors by doing the fieldwork necessary to identify opportunities that are a match for its expertise.

The Prudentia Capital team has a strong entrepreneurial, managerial and operational expertise, combined with significant experience in the public and public-private sector. This comprehensive view gives it unique insight and tools to actively transform and develop companies.

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**About the transaction:**

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**Sellers legal counsel:** Miroslav Terzic

**Tax and fiscal / Corporate counsels:** Florilèges Avocats (Marie-Hélène Raffin), Linden Avocats (Cécile Madelin)

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