

Paris, 20 February 2004

**Press release**

**Oddo et Cie to acquire Crédit Lyonnais' European equity brokerage activities**

Oddo has signed a contract with Crédit Lyonnais to acquire Crédit Lyonnais Securities Europe S.A. and Crédit Lyonnais Securities Midcaps S.A in Lyon. The agreement also concerns the European equity sales team in New York, which will become part of Oddo Securities Corp. The contract, which is the result of exclusive talks with Crédit Lyonnais that began on 5 February, is subject to approval by the appropriate authorities.

The link-up between these entities and Oddo, which share a common view of the brokerage business, would offer the best strategic fit for the creation of a major independent brokerage firm.

Joint working groups will be set up as soon as possible in order to prepare for the link-up under optimum conditions, with the aim of establishing the new organisational structure by the summer.