# **e u r e x** *circular 70/98*

To: All Eurex members and vendors

Date: Frankfurt, 17th November 1998

**Introduction of a New Front-end Design / Graphical User Interface for Eurex**

**Results from the Questionnaire of 14.10.98 and Future Plans.**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our letter of 14.10.98 informed you of the intention to offer, in the third quarter of 1999, a new trading front-end with an open, standardised interface (VALUES API) on which we would base a graphical user layer. In order to facilitate a later integration of the cash and derivatives markets, we informed you of our plans to implement this front-end on the platforms supported by Xetra. At the same time, we asked you to notify us of your preferences with regard to the timing of the introduction and the choice of platform.

We have received over 200 replies to the questionnaire, for which we are extremely grateful. Among these were a considerable number of individual letters, many of which asked for an extension of the support of DEC AXP under VMS. We hope you will understand that we have been unable to answer all of the letters, but in special cases we will contact individual members again.

The results from the questionnaire are summarised below.

- Nearly half of the members have made no firm decision on the timescale for introduction. But approximately 44% of members foresee using the new front-end in parallel with the current user device.
- The most requested platform for both the server and the workstation is MS Windows NT (Intel). Following closely is VMS on DEC AXP.

A telephone check with members who had indicated a wish to keep the VMS platform, identified the following major reasons:

- Protection of investments in hardware and software.
- Superior system stability.

Based on the clear statements from those wishing to protect the active investments made in DEC AXP/VMS equipment during 1998, the Eurex board has decided that support for the current user devices on DEC AXP/VMS and IBM AIX/RS6000 will be continued until the introduction of Eurex Release 5, planned for the middle of 2001. However, with this user device platform it will not be possible to participate in the developing alliance with the Chicago Board of Trade.

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The Eurex board has further decided to evaluate the inclusion of the DEC AXP platform, under VMS or MS Windows NT, for the new front-end. The technical feasibility and the consequences on the development process will be estimated for both operating system variants. We will inform you of the results as soon as they are available.

If you have any questions, please contact the Eurex Member Readiness Team on +49 (0)69-2101-1700.

Yours sincerely,

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