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CME Group Announces Six New Additional European Natural Gas Contracts on CME Europe

LONDON, Jan. 26, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- CME Group, the world's leading and most diverse derivatives market place, announced today the launch of six new additional European Natural Gas cleared future contracts on CME Europe, adding to the four physically delivered and eight financially settled contracts which launched and began trading on Monday 19 January 2015.

These additional European natural gas cleared futures contracts are all financially settled. They are UK, Dutch and German Daily and Italian Calendar Month futures as follows: UK NBP Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Daily Future; Dutch TTF Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Daily Future; German NCG Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Daily Future; German Gaspool Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Daily Future; Italian PSV Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Calendar Month Future; Italian PSV Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) vs. Dutch TTF Natural Gas (ICIS Heren) Spread Calendar Month Future. The contracts will be listed on CME Group's European exchange, CME Europe, for first trade date on Monday 2 February 2015 and are authorised and approved by the United Kingdom (UK) Financial Conduct Authority. All our European natural gas contracts will be available on Clearport, Globex and distributed via the Trayport platform alongside other exchange products.

"Following the promising launch of European natural gas cleared futures on CME Europe this week, these contracts further expand the choice we now offer gas market participants to serve their risk management needs as they show increased interest in using cleared futures alongside their traditional over-the-counter positions," said Martin Fraenkel, Global Head of Energy, CME Group.

Natural gas is a key component in Europe's energy supply chain and is widely used across a number of different industrial sectors. The method of delivery includes pipelines, liquefied natural gas vessels and regasification terminals. The latter two are likely to play an increasingly important role in the market as further infrastructure is built to cope with expectations of rising supply. These contracts will be based on the most liquid of the underlying European Natural Gas markets.

CME Group offers cleared futures and options for the most extensive and liquid energy complex in the world including: a suite of natural gas led by our Henry Hub future that is recognised as the most widely traded benchmark for natural gas in the world; all three global crude oil benchmarks; refined products; biofuels; coal and electricity contracts.

These contracts will be subject to the rules of CME Europe and cleared via CME Clearing Europe, CME Group's European clearing house. Details of the new contracts are set out below and full contract specifications can be found at http://www.cmegroup.com/europe/products. A complete list of products, members and product specifications can be found at http://www.cmegroup.com/europe/products. A complete list of products, members and product specifications can be found at http://www.cmegroup.com/europe/products.

As the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace, CME Group (<u>www.cmegroup.com</u>) is where the world comes to manage risk. CME Group exchanges offer the widest range of global benchmark products across all major asset classes, including futures and options based on <u>interest rates</u>, <u>equity indexes</u>, <u>foreign exchange</u>, <u>energy</u>, <u>agricultural commodities</u>, <u>metals</u>, <u>weather</u> and <u>real estate</u>. CME Group brings buyers and sellers together through its <u>CME Globex</u>® electronic trading platform, its trading facilities in New York and Chicago, and through its London-based <u>CME Europe</u> derivatives exchange. CME Group also operates one of the world's leading central counterparty clearing providers through <u>CME Clearing</u> and <u>CME</u> <u>Clearing</u> and <u>settlement services</u> across asset classes for exchange-traded contracts and over-the-counter derivatives transactions. These products and services ensure that businesses everywhere can substantially mitigate counterparty credit risk.

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