



**AIB Board Statement
7th February 2002**

At a specially convened Board meeting of AIB Group, directors this evening received a report in relation to losses incurred by the Treasury operations at the Baltimore Headquarters of its US subsidiary Allfirst. The extent of the losses were confirmed at \$750 million and the Board was updated on the progress of the ongoing investigation.

The Board has expressed its extreme disquiet that controls and supervision of the treasury operations in Allfirst had failed to uncover, at a far earlier stage, the fraudulent activities, which resulted in the losses sustained. While accepting that these fraudulent activities were complex and may well have involved collusion and conspiracy, the Board is determined that effective remedies be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Accordingly the Board has made the following decisions.

To approve comprehensive terms of reference for the investigation currently underway, which is charged with

Ascertaining the facts concerning the foreign exchange activities in the Treasury operations of Allfirst Bank which led to the loss referred to in the AIB Stock Exchange Announcement of 6 February 2002.

Describing the policies and controls which applied to those operations during the period in which these activities took place.

Reporting on the manner in which such policies and controls operated (or may have failed to operate) in relation to these activities.

Making recommendations on any improvements which appear necessary or desirable to the policies and controls.

The Board has instructed that the report be presented within 30 days. The Board has decided that it will appoint an eminent person with standing and expertise in the financial services industry. This person will be appointed by and report directly to the board on the adequacy and scope of the review and its findings.

The Board has also decided to centralise the management and control of all treasury activities throughout AIB Group in AIB Capital Markets in Dublin under the direction of Mr Nick Treble, Head of AIB Capital Markets Treasury who will report directly to Mr Colm Doherty, Head of AIB Capital Markets. In that context the Board has further decided to appoint an external expert to work with AIB Capital Markets management, to ensure that the centralisation process will be completed on a basis which will leave the Group with a control environment which meets the highest standards.

The Board reiterated AIB Group's declaration that its underlying performance and profitability has not been impaired and that its capital adequacy continues to be strong. They welcomed the confirmation by Moodys yesterday of the Group's AA rating

After the Board meeting AIB Group Chairman Lochlann Quinn stated

" Though this is a significant loss, customers and staff can be reassured that AIB remains strong. Our commitment and ability to develop the business for the benefit of all customers, shareholders and staff are undiminished."

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