



London, 6 December 2017

## **Berne Union President Topi Vesteri awarded “Commander in the Order of Lion of Finland”**

Berne Union President, Finnvera’s Deputy CEO and Group Chief Credit Officer, Topi Vesteri, has been awarded the title of “Commander in the Order of Lion of Finland”, in recognition of his lifelong work and achievements in export finance.

Topi has been recognised with this award – one of the highest in his country – on this auspicious occasion of Finland’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017. He stresses that the recognition belongs as much to his staff, colleagues and business partners just as much as it belongs to him personally:

“Everything I have achieved has been achieved together with my highly professional staff and colleagues, both at home and abroad, and would never have been possible alone. I wish to thank all those I have worked with over the years and relay how proud I am of what we have accomplished together in the area of trade and export finance over the past two decades”.

Topi continues, “The title is ‘*Commander*’ although, of course, in today’s civilian working life one cannot reach results simply by ‘*commanding*’; the best results are achieved through finding the best expertise, mentoring and nurturing this, and working together with cooperatively in a spirit of mutual trust and good compromises.

Berne Union Secretary General, Vinco David, commented; “Topi has been an icon of our industry for many years and has worked tirelessly to accomplish so much, both for Finnvera, and for the Berne Union. We are indeed privileged to have Topi as our President, and I am personally delighted to see his achievements gain recognition from his peers and from his government.”

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### **About the Berne Union**

The Berne Union is an international not-for-profit trade association, representing the global export credit and investment insurance industry.

82 member organisations include government-backed export credit agencies, private credit and political risk insurers and multilateral institutions from across the globe who provide insurance, guarantees, and other financial products in support of cross-border trade. These products offer protection for exporting companies, investors and financial institutions against losses as a result of commercial credit risks and political risks, providing a vital link in the flow of goods, services and investment capital world-wide.

Collectively, members provide payment risk protection for approximately 11% of world annual cross-border trade in goods and services and since the start of the global financial crisis in 2008, have paid out more than USD 45 billion in claims.