

## **FITCH UPGRADES TURKEY'S DENIZBANK TO 'BB'**

Fitch Ratings-London/Istanbul/Paris/New York-18 October 2006: Fitch Ratings has today upgraded Turkey-based Denizbank A.S.'s ("Denizbank") ratings to foreign currency Issuer Default 'BB' from 'BB-' (BB minus), local currency Issuer Default 'BB+' from 'BB-' (BB minus), National Long-term 'AA(tur)' from 'A(tur)' and Support '3' from '4'. This follows the announcement on 17 October 2006 that Dexia ('AA+/F1+') has acquired 75% of Denizbank's shares from Zorlu Holding in line with the share purchase agreement signed 31 May 2006.

The Rating Watch Positive on the above ratings has been removed. A Positive Outlook has been assigned to foreign and local currency IDRs and the Outlook for the National rating is Stable. The foreign currency Issuer Default rating ("IDR") is now at Turkey's Country Ceiling. The bank's other ratings are affirmed at Short-term 'B' and Individual 'C/D'.

The upgrade reflects the support and benefits that Denizbank is expected to receive from its new shareholder, Dexia. Fitch views that while Dexia has a very high propensity to support Denizbank, its ability to do so could be constrained by Turkey's 'BB' Country Ceiling.

Denizbank bank focuses on SME and retail clients, ranking as Turkey's sixth-largest private bank. It has 245 branches nationwide, owns banks in Austria and Russia and is engaged in investment, brokerage, leasing and factoring.

Contact: Ed Thompson, New York, Tel: +1 212 908 0364; Gulcin Orgun, Turda Ozmen, Istanbul, +90 212 2791065; Alain Brancheu, Paris, +33 1 44299141.

Media Relations: Françoise Alos, Paris, Tel: +33 1 44 29 91 22; Mayra Cunningham, London, Tel: +44 20 7417 3557; Kenneth Reed, New York, Tel: +1 212-908-0540.

Note to Editors: Fitch's National ratings provide a relative measure of creditworthiness for rated entities in countries with relatively low international sovereign ratings and where there is demand for such ratings. The best risk within a country is rated 'AAA' and other credits are rated only relative to this risk. National ratings are designed for use mainly by local investors in local markets and are signified by the addition of an identifier for the country concerned, such as 'AAA (tur)' for National ratings in Turkey. Specific letter grades are not therefore internationally comparable.

Fitch's rating definitions and the terms of use of such ratings are available on the agency's public site, [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com). Published ratings, criteria and methodologies are available from this site, at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the 'Code of Conduct' section of this site.