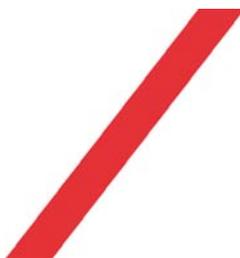


# Press Release



## AXA Private Equity arranges mezzanine financing for acquisition of Stokomani

Paris, 04 May 2012. AXA Private Equity, the leading European diversified private equity firm, will arrange a €22 million mezzanine tranche alongside Euromezzanine to support the acquisition of Stokomani by Sagard, the French investment fund. Stokomani is being acquired by Sagard from Advent International, a leading global buyout firm. The transaction is expected to complete in June.

Stokomani is a leading French discount retailer of high-end brands. Throughout its network of 37 stores, Stokomani offers a wide range of branded goods at attractive prices, from clothing, sportswear, beauty and healthcare, toys and homeware. This unique concept, developed by CEO Jean-Jacques Namani, has seen the company double in size over five years, with 2011 sales reaching around €200 million.

BNP Paribas, LCL and Société Générale are mandated to arrange the senior debt supporting the acquisition, with a senior debt package of up to €96 million.

Cécile Mayer-Lévi, Managing Director Private Debt at AXA Private Equity, said: "We have been a partner of Stokomani since May 2007 and we are pleased to again support Sagard, Jean-Jacques Namani and his team as the company moves into the next stage of its development. Our strong existing relationship with the company gave us the opportunity to offer this form of mezzanine financing, which is ideally suited to support Stokomani's future development."

### ABOUT AXA PRIVATE EQUITY

AXA Private Equity is a leading private equity firm with US\$28 billion in managed assets and a global reach extending across Europe, North America and Asia. The firm offers investors the full spectrum of private equity services for every market segment: direct funds, infrastructure financing, mid cap and small cap buyouts, venture capital, co-investments, fund of funds as well as mezzanine financing.

With offices in Paris, Frankfurt, London, New York, Singapore, Milan, Zurich, Vienna and Luxembourg, AXA Private Equity supports the development and long-term growth of its portfolio companies with sustainable growth strategies and by granting them access to the AXA international network. AXA Private Equity has earned the trust of its investors by regularly supplying them with transparent performance data on its funds and portfolio companies.

### AXA Private Equity, Global Investments the European way

[www.axaprivateequity.com](http://www.axaprivateequity.com)

### ABOUT THE PRIVATE DEBT TEAM AT AXA PRIVATE EQUITY

AXA Private Equity can act as arranger for financings of between €10m and €200m. Competition is fierce and deals come in widely diverse forms, so the 13-strong team based in Paris, London, Milan and New York, must be ready to arrange diverse financing deals with great rigor and speed. Their privileged relationship with investors, boosted by AXA Private Equity's Fund of Funds and Co-Investment businesses, is a major advantage. Today AXA Private Equity Private Debt manages €2.3bn, in a broader scope including Western Europe, but also Eastern Europe, the United States and Asia.

Global Investments, the European Way

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 **Private Equity**  
An AXA Investment Managers Company

## **ABOUT STOKOMANI**

Stokomani is France's leading discount retailer of leading brand-named goods. Established over 50 years ago, Stokomani has carved a special place for itself within the French market. Products range from clothing, sportswear, beauty and healthcare to homeware and to sectors. The unique concept, developed by CEO Jean-Jacque Namani, son of the founder, saw sales in 2011 reach around €200 million.

Over the last five years the company has more than doubled its number of stores to 37 and increase headcount to 1,250 employees. Its strong relationship with leading brands and its ability to source products directly ensures that Stokomani efficiently resources its products while remaining cost competitive. Its price is positioned well below indirect competitors and hypermarkets and is almost without competition in the market.

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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