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CNP  **Bencis**



PRESS RELEASE

Equine Care Group Welcomes CNP as Strategic Partner to Accelerate Global Expansion

Founded in 2021 by leading equine veterinarians **Dr. Tom Mariën** and **Dr. Frederik Bruyninx**, **Equine Care Group (ECG)** has rapidly grown into a pioneering force in interdisciplinary equine medicine. Treating over **50,000** horses annually and serving clients in more than **70 countries**, ECG has redefined standards in equine healthcare. In 2024, the Belgian government recognized ECG as “**Scale-up of the Year**”, underscoring the group’s exceptional growth and industry leadership.

To support its ambitious global expansion, ECG is proud to announce a strategic partnership with **CNP (Compagnie Nationale à Portefeuille)**, an international private investment company with Belgian roots, controlled exclusively by the Frère family. This partnership will strengthen ECG’s position internationally while preserving its veterinarian-led model and reinforcing its mission of delivering world-class equine care.

EQUINE CARE GROUP

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Dr. Tom Mariën, CEO of ECG:

*"Since our inception, **ECG has grown by uniting** equine hospitals, ambulatory practices, labs, and nutritional specialists into one collaborative, mission-driven network. With CNP's support, **we are ready to accelerate our international growth** and set a new global benchmark in equine veterinary care."*

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP:



Global expansion: Accelerating the international rollout of ECG's unique, holistic model by uniting top veterinarians and equine healthcare specialists under one mission and one name: **Equine Care Group**.



Building new hospitals: Enabling the establishment of state-of-the-art clinics in underserved regions.



Expansion of research & education: Supporting cross-border clinical trials, continuous education, and scientific collaboration.



Innovation acceleration: Investing in advanced diagnostics, digital platforms, and future-proof medical technologies, all while ensuring veterinarians remain in the lead.

Frederik Bruyninx, Co-founder ECG

*"This partnership marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. Together with **CNP**, we will strengthen **ECG's** ecosystem and **bring our veterinarian-led, collaborative approach to new markets worldwide.**"*

*Since partnering with Bencis 4 years ago, **ECG** has successfully launched multiple clinics and acquired leading practices across Europe. With **CNP** joining the journey, the group is now poised to significantly expand its footprint in North America, South America, Australia, and the Middle East in the coming years.*



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Robert Falk, Partner at Bencis:

*"Over the past four years, we've experienced a **remarkable journey built on vision, passion, and close collaboration** with Tom and the entire **ECG** team. We are delighted to welcome **CNP** on board. Their outstanding reputation, long-term vision, and proven track record make them the ideal partner for the next phase. **Together, we'll be able to accelerate ECG's growth while staying true to our mission: empowering management teams to achieve their ambitious goals.**"*

CNP

Xavier Le Clef, CEO of CNP :

*"From the start, we have been impressed by **ECG's** unique model and remarkable growth trajectory – driven by the vision, passion, and energy with which Tom, Frederik, and their teams are reshaping the equine healthcare sector and **setting new standards of excellence in equine wellbeing**. Together with the ECG team and Bencis, we look forward to further strengthening the group's leadership positions in its core markets as well as supporting its continued global expansion".*



Bencis, the founders and ECG were advised by Rothschild & Co, Allen & Overy Shearman, Argo, 8 Advisory and Bain & Company for this transaction.

CNP was advised by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, PWC and Bain & Company.

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ABOUT EQUINE CARE GROUP (ECG):

Equine Care Group is a leading international veterinary group founded by veterinarians, for veterinarians. The group brings together equine hospitals, ambulatory practices, diagnostic labs, reproductive centers, and nutrition brands under one collaborative, vet-led structure.

With a presence across Europe and active expansion into global markets, ECG aims to raise the standard of equine healthcare through innovation, education, and a strong network of best-in-class professionals — all united under one mission: delivering world-class veterinary care to horses and elevating the standards of equine healthcare globally.

Website: www.equinecaregroup.com

CNP

ABOUT CNP

Founded by late Mr. Albert Frère, the CNP group manages approximately €3Bn in net assets, invested through a diversified portfolio of global, sector-leading companies. Backed by a stable family shareholder base, the CNP group focuses on long-term value creation by actively supporting the management teams of the companies in which it holds majority or leading stakes.

Website: www.cnp.be



ABOUT BENCIS

Bencis is an independent private equity firm with offices in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. Managing six funds totaling €2.2 billion, Bencis has invested in over 78 companies and completed more than 330 follow-on acquisitions since 1999. Bencis focuses on majority investments in successful, profitable businesses and actively supports them in realizing sustainable growth.

Website: www.bencis.com