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NEWS RELEASE

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SCCF Funding to Help Build Catastrophe and Weather Risk Insurance Markets and Enhance Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in Southeastern Europe

WASHINGTON, November 10, 2011 – Europa Re, a catastrophe and weather risk reinsurance facility, is receiving fresh support in its efforts to help governments in Southeastern Europe adapt to climate change.¹ The **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)**, administered by the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, is providing \$5.5 million to fund the technical and regulatory work needed to develop catastrophe and weather-risk insurance markets, and mitigate the negative impact of climate change in Albania, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia, through the World Bank's ***Southeastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF) Project***.

The \$5.5 million SCCF grant will support actuarial and probabilistic country weather risk assessments that are necessary to develop insurance pricing and underwriting guidelines; funding the implementation of regulatory frameworks to ensure catastrophe and weather risk insurance products comply with national laws; and acquiring weather reporting in order to provide timely readings of temperature and precipitation – data needed for parametric weather risk contracts.

The SCCF grant will also help finance the development of risk maps, climate risk models, and the crafting of parametric weather risk insurance products, all of which will require the compilation of temperature and precipitation indices. It will assist in the development of weather risk insurance products which will enhance adaptive capacity to climate change in the recipient countries. Lastly, this new funding will support public education projects on disaster risk exposure and the benefits of catastrophe and weather risk insurance.

In supporting this important endeavor, the SCCF joins the World Bank, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in financing Europa Re. Already, in coordination with UNISDR, the World Bank has financed over \$17 million in membership contributions and technical assistance funding to the Facility. SECO has provided \$4.5 million in funding to help with the technical and regulatory work required to develop catastrophe and weather risk insurance products.

About Europa RE: Europa RE is a specialty catastrophe reinsurance company that aims to facilitate the growth of catastrophe and weather risk insurance markets in member countries. Incorporated under Swiss Law in November 2009, Europa Re is designed as a regional reinsurance pool that will benefit from economies of scale, regional risk diversification, and the state-of-the-art risk management capabilities that will consequently translate into lower premium rates for weather and catastrophe risk insurance products in Southeast Europe.

For the World Bank:

In Skopje: Denis Boskovski, +389 2 3117 159, dboskovski@worldbank.org

In Washington: Kristyn Schrader, + 1-202-458-2736, kschrader@worldbank.org

For Broadcast Requests: Natalia Cieslik, (202) 458-9369, ncieslik@worldbank.org

¹ Europa Re is the implementing agency for the South East Europe and Caucasus Regional Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Project (SEEC CRIF).

For the SCCF:

In Washington: Bonizella Biagini: +1-202-458-7506, bbiagini@thegef.org
Rawlestone Moore, +1-202-473-8231, rmoore1@thegef.org
Claudia Ortiz, +1-202-4589-9212, cortiz@thegef.org

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