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## **Vigeo Eiris issues a positive alert on three US companies taking legal action against President's anti-immigration decree (“Muslim Ban”)**

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**On February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 Vigeo Eiris issued a positive alert upgrading the scores of three US companies – Amazon, Expedia and Microsoft – in the Human Rights domain, following their decision to take legal action against President Donald Trump’s decree banning people from seven countries\* from entering America, known as "immigration ban" and/or "Muslim ban"..**

In doing so, Vigeo Eiris increases its level of assurance on the willingness and capacity of Amazon, Expedia, and Microsoft to integrate within their strategies and managerial processes the prevention of human rights violations. This includes direct and indirect violations, by omission or complicity, the respect of individual freedoms (i.e. freedom of movement) and non-discrimination related to origins, beliefs and opinion. The scores of Amazon, Expedia and Microsoft have been upgraded by 10 points on average on the non-discrimination criterion, and by more than 2 points on the criterion about their contribution to the prevention of indirect human rights violations in society, in the broader sense. Amazon, Expedia and Microsoft are indeed the first US major companies to have announced their support of the lawsuit that was filed by Washington state. The lawsuit’s objective is to prove the immigration ban is unconstitutional and harmful to society and the economy.

Vigeo (now Vigeo Eiris since the acquisition of research agency EIRIS in December 2015), had issued a similar positive alert on Google, impacting a criterion included in the rating domain related to the Respect of Human Rights, following the company’s decision to implement a phone service enabling people living in Egypt to bypass the Internet censorship set by the government. In July 2013, Vigeo had also issued a positive alert on a group of several operators (Alcatel-Lucent, France Télécom-Orange, Millicom, Nokia Siemens Networks, Telefonica, Telenor, TeliaSonera and Vodafone), who committed to cooperate, with the aim of protecting freedom of expression and the right to privacy, and more generally to reinforce respect of Human Rights.

Fouad Benseddik, Director of Methods and Institutional Affairs stated, “Amazon, Expedia, and Microsoft have shown the proactive approach that companies can take when exercising their social responsibility, by taking a concrete stand against discrimination and acting in favour of Human Rights, not only within their own organisation but also towards their government. It is a strong and positive signal to all investors and markets engaged in the responsible management of the risks related to breaches of international conventions protecting fundamental Human Rights.”

*\* Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen*

## Press Contact Vigeo Eiris:

PARIS	Anita LEGRAND	+33(0)1 55.82.32.44	<a href="mailto:anita.legrand@vigeo.com">anita.legrand@vigeo.com</a>
BRUSSELS	Jordi LESAFFER	+32.2.206.11.17	<a href="mailto:jordi.lesaffer@vigeo.com">jordi.lesaffer@vigeo.com</a>
CASABLANCA	Siham MEZZOUR	+212.522.87.14.77	<a href="mailto:siham.mezzour@vigeo.com">siham.mezzour@vigeo.com</a>
LONDON	Stephen HINE	+44(0)772 5594 533	<a href="mailto:stephen.hine@eiris.org">stephen.hine@eiris.org</a>
MILAN	Simonetta BONO	+39 02 27 72 71 40	<a href="mailto:simonetta.bono@vigeo.com">simonetta.bono@vigeo.com</a>
TOKYO	Robert VERDIER	+81 3 5721 6159	<a href="mailto:robert.verdier@vigeo.com">robert.verdier@vigeo.com</a>
SANTIAGO	Fanny TORA	+56 2 29 07 40 68	<a href="mailto:fanny.tora@vigeo.com">fanny.tora@vigeo.com</a>
MONTREAL	Anne QUINTAL	+1 514. 214 9339	<a href="mailto:anne.quintal@vigeo.com">anne.quintal@vigeo.com</a>

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### About Vigeo Eiris

Vigeo Eiris is a leading corporate social responsibility rating agency, providing environmental, social and governance (ESG) assessment, rating and risk reviews to decision makers, investors, boards and managers via unsolicited and solicited assessments covering worldwide listed and non listed companies, 170 states and several local authorities.

Vigeo Eiris delivers two types of services through separate business units:

- **Vigeo Eiris Rating**, provides a large range of products and services designed for all types of investors and asset managers, and encompassing all sustainable and ethical investment practices
- **Vigeo Eiris Enterprise** works with organisations of all sizes, all sectors, public and private, to support them in the integration of ESG principles and goals into their governance and strategies, risk management and operations.

Vigeo Eiris' methodologies and rating services, designed in-house, are widely recognised, and in line with the strictest quality standards, are certified by the independent ARISTA® standard and trusted by academics through more than 60 scientific partnerships. Vigeo Eiris is accredited as Verifier by the Climate Bond Initiative Board (CBI).

With a team of 200, Vigeo Eiris is present in Paris, London, Boston, Brussels, Casablanca, Milan, Montreal, Santiago and Tokyo. The agency works with partners through its "Vigeo Eiris Global Network" in every continent.

For more information: [www.vigeo-eiris.com](http://www.vigeo-eiris.com)

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