EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CO-OPERATIVE BANKS



The Co-operative difference: Sustainability, Proximity, Governance

The voice of 4.200 local and retail banks, 78 million members, 205 million customers

EACB Press Release:

In the wake of COP21 Co-operative Banks are resolutely committed to better financing the energy transition towards green growth

Brussels, 4th December 2015-The European Association of Co-operatives Banks (EACB) together with eleven members signatories issued a **statement** addressed to the world leaders that are currently meeting in Paris during the <u>United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21)</u>. Co-operative Banks would like to reiterate their existing engagement in fighting global warming.

Christian Talgorn, the President of the EACB, declared "On the basis of their values, cooperative banks are resolutely committed to better financing the energy transition towards green growth."

In the wake of COP21, co-operative banks would like to enhance their existing engagement in the fight against global warming by the following practical actions:

- Create a constructive and lasting dialogue among co-operative banks, governments and stakeholders.
- Foster investment, financing and casualty insurance focused on low-carbon solutions and technologies.
- Develop innovative solutions integrating the consequences of climate change.
- Intensify the cooperation with and among co-operative banks and enterprises in order to reduce the threat and effects of climate change.

To access the full EACB Statement please click HERE

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About the EACB:

The **European Association of Co-operative Banks** (EACB) is the voice of the co-operative banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 31 member institutions and of co-operative banks in general. Co-operative banks form decentralised networks which are subject to banking as well as co-operative legislation. Democracy, transparency and proximity are the three key characteristics of the co-operative banks' business model. With 4,200 locally operating banks and 68,000 outlets co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the enlarged European Union, playing a major role in the financial and economic system. They have a long tradition in serving 205 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 78 million members and 860,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.

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