



EACB Press Release: The EACB launches the Annual Report 2020

Brussels, 25 January 2021

The **European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)** is pleased to announce the release of **its annual report 2020**. The report highlights the activities and achievements of the EACB in 2020 and **voices the concerns and expectations of 2,700 banks in Europe**.

It also contains the table of **key performance indicators for co-operative banks in 2019** that illustrates the strength of the sector. They contribute widely to stability thanks to their anti-cyclical behaviour, they are driver of local and social growth with 2.700 locally operating banks and 43.000 outlets, they serve 214 million customers, mainly consumers, SMEs and communities. Europe's co-operative banks represent 85 million members and 705.000 employees and have an average market share in Europe of about 20%.

At this occasion, **Berry Marttin, the President of the EACB**, declared: "*The year 2020 has been tough in many ways, but was nevertheless reassuring for co-operative banks, which continued to excel in client-related activities and steadily increased their capital levels and thus their robustness. During the Covid-19 crisis, our banks have shown their commitment to help entrepreneurs and households through hard times. The Report illustrates this, as well as key achievements of the EACB related to the EU initiatives in the single market, the retail product offering and the sustainable finance.*" He added: "*I would like to thank the EACB team and all the experts in the 27 member organisations for their continued dedication and commitment to the cause of co-operative banking. And on behalf of the EACB Board, I would like to take the occasion to thank **Hervé Guider** for this last year of a long number successfully devoted to the EACB. Let me wish all success to **Nina Schindler**, who will take over as of 1st February 2021*".

Hervé Guider stated: "*It was both a privilege and a challenge to defend the interests of European co-operative banks during the last 20 years which were characterised by a turbulent period of regulatory reforms in the wake of the financial crisis*". He added "*For the future, I wish the same success for the EACB; to maintain the constructive and open dialogue undertaken during those many years with regulators, supervisors and policy makers in view of the challenges ahead.*"

To download full text of the EACB Annual Report 2020, please click [here](#).

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The voice of 2.700 local and retail banks, 85 million members, 214 million customers in EU

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