



EACB Press Release:

The EACB welcomes CEPS launch of Banking Business Models Monitor 2014 for Europe underlining that co-operative banks are a pillar of institutional diversity in the financial sector in Europe

Brussels, 5 December 2014. **The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)** launched on 4 December at the European Parliament **the Banking Business Models Monitor 2014 for Europe (BBMM)**, a joint publication by CEPS, the International Research Centre on Financial Co-operatives and the International Observatory on Co-operatives at HEC Montreal.

The EACB welcomes the results of this publication, which proves once again that co-operative banks have provided a liquidity and stability anchor to the real economy throughout the financial crisis.

The Monitor highlights how the co-operative banking sector has performed relatively well compared to savings and commercial banks. In particular, the sector has continued to suffer less during the financial crisis and the early stages of the economic crisis, to be more resilient to external shocks and to lend to the real economy.

Rym Ayadi, Professor of international banking and financial systems at HEC Montréal and Senior Research Fellow at CEPS, commented: 'Co-operatives banks are a pillar of institutional diversity in the financial sector in Europe. The majority of these banks follow the retail and diversified banking business models. Generally the retail diversified oriented co-operative banks weathered well the financial and economic crises due to their high capitalisation levels, continued to lend to the real economy and overall remained largely resilient and robust. These banks are key to economic recovery in Europe'.

The EACB General Manager, Hervé Guider, said: 'Thanks to their key characteristics – extensive network, with a presence even in the most remote areas, stable relationships with their members and clients, expertise and long-term horizon – co-operative banks are now in the position to foster growth for the benefit of society'.

For the BBMM publication, please click [here](#).

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About the EACB:

Founded in 1970, the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) is a leading professional lobbying association in the European banking industry, based in Brussels. Today the EACB represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 29 member institutions and of co-operative banks. With 3,700 locally operating banks and 71,000 outlets, co-operative banks play a key role in the financial and economic system. They serve more than 215 million customers, mainly SMEs, consumers and communities. Europe's co-operative banks represent 56 million members and 850,000 employees and have an average market share of about 20%. www.eacb.coop

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'The Co-operative Banking Difference towards economic growth'**