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EACB PRESS RELEASE

EACB pleased with the adoption of the Mortgage Credit Directive – the individualized approach of co-operative banks in provision of mortgages continues to play a decisive role

Brussels, 10th of December 2013. The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB), the voice of almost 4.000 co-operative banks, welcomes today's vote on the European Parliament Resolution regarding the Directive on credit agreements for consumers relating to residential immovable property (CARRP). Co-operative banks are retail and local oriented, they are key provider of mortgages for households at EU level.

With regard to the outcome of the resolution on CARRP, the EACB considers that a balanced approach has been found; the European Association of Co-operative Banks finds it positive that the approach taken with regard to the creditworthiness assessment refrains from becoming all too prescriptive. Consumers retain the possibility to continue selecting the product that suits best for them from a wide range of alternatives, e.g. they can choose between fixed or variable interest rates.

Hervé Guider, General Manager of the EACB stated "Co- operative banks are committed to an individualized approach to the credit granting process. It is in the interest of each co-operative bank to ensure that the borrower will be able to repay the loan, given the very nature of funding of co-operative banks- coming for an important part from their client/members." Indeed, in addition to the legal requirements of the adopted Mortgage Credit Directive, co-operative banks use their proximity to the clients, often being also members, to carefully analyse the financial situation of each client.

EACB Contact:

General Manager: Hervé GUIDER (Tel : +32 2 286 98 40), h.guidier@eachb.coop

Head of Retail Banking, Payments and Financial Market Department: Marieke van BERKEL (Tel : +32 2 286 98 47) m.vanberkel@eachb.coop

Head of Communications & Research Department : Elisa BEVILACQUA (Tel +32 2 286 98 42), e.bevilacqua@eachb.coop

About the EACB:

The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) has been the voice of co-operative banks since 1970. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 28 member institutions and of co-operative banks in general. Co-operative banks form decentralized networks which are subject to banking as well as co-operative legislation. With almost 4,000 locally operating banks and 71,000 outlets, co-operative banks play a major role in the financial and economic system. They serve more than 215 million customers, mainly consumers, SMEs and communities. Europe's co-operative banks represent 56 million members and 850.000 employees and have an average market share of about 20%. Their resilience during the crisis make co-operative banks a key driving force in the economic recovery.

Website: www.eachb.coop