



EACB PRESS RELEASE

Co-operative banks leaders issue Roadmap for An Approach that balances Regulation and Stimulation of Local Growth, addressing 10 policy points

Brussels, 27 March 2014 - Leaders of Co-operative Banks have drawn up a [Roadmap for 'An Approach that balances Regulation and Stimulation of Local Growth'](#). This document outlines the current state of play and the way forward for the sector vis-à-vis European and international regulators.

The document is issued as a follow-up to the Regulatory debate organised by the EACB on [4th March in Brussels](#) and in light of the new mandates of the European Parliament and European Commission, both starting in the second half of 2014.

Co-operative banks are key players in the retail banking industry with 3.700 banks, 56 million members and 215 million clients. Given the current economic situation, they are determined to continue funding the European economy and call for an approach that properly balances regulation and takes into account the diversity of the banking sector.

The Roadmap for co-operative banks addresses a number of concerns and expectations that co-operative banks leaders consider to be of primary importance.

Referring to the ten key points of the Roadmap, the EACB General Manager, Hervé Guider said: "European regulators should better take into consideration the specificities of the co-operative banks. New regulation should be phased in more carefully and better calibrated to mitigate the effects on the real economy and on the end users such as SMEs and consumers." Mr Guider concluded "Co-operative Banks with a regional focus must not be at a disadvantage."

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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 3,700 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.

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The voice of 3.700 local and retail banks, 56 million members, 215 million customers

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