



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

EACB Lunch Debate

**“Towards sustainable Finance in EU:
the role of co-operative banks”**

30 November 2017, 12h30-14h30

**European Parliament
Salon des Membres
Brussels**

Draft Programme



Background and scope

In the run-up to the final recommendations of the EU Commission's High Level Experts Group on Sustainable Finance, the lunch debate is a platform for dialogue with stakeholders. It is also an opportunity to share views and discuss the contributions of co-operative banks in sustainable finance.

As local and regional banks, **co-operatives play a key role in financing the energy transition** (investment or savings products, project financing; green financing of SMEs, energy efficiency of private and public buildings or green bonds), due to their **long-term engagement** with their members, clients and the communities they belong to. From this perspective, co-operative banks consider that a greater emphasis must be placed on **the retail side of green financing**: by promoting tools that are conducive of regional green growth via SMEs, households and local actors.

On the other hand, the current complexity and continuous motion of the regulatory framework is heavily affecting local co-operative banks and local players. Additionally, **there is a risk that regulation will lead to a less diverse banking environment** thus undermining the sustainability and stability of the financial framework in Europe. Those are key issues to address in the debate on sustainable finance.

Topics

The lunch debate will address the following questions:

- What is the HLEG likely to propose in its final recommendations?
- What are the possible measures envisaged by EU Commission and Parliament?
- Why diversity in the banking sector is important in the debate on sustainable finance?
- What are the contributions of co-operative banks? What are their challenges and views on the way forward?

The Co-operative Difference : Sustainability - Proximity - Governance

Agenda

Opening and Welcome_(12h30 -12h40)

- **Sirpa Pietikäinen**, MEP (EPP), Member of ECON
- **Etienne Pflimlin**, Chair, EACB TF Sustainable Finance and Executive Committee Member; Honorary President of Credit Mutuel

Statements (12h40 – 13h50) - *lunch serving 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after statements*

- **Martin Koch** and **Michelle Kosmidis**, Coordinators HLEGSF, DG FISMA, EU Commission
- **Maarten Biermans**, Head of ESG Policy, Rabobank
- **Paul Tang**, MEP (S&D), Member of ECON

Moderation of Q&A and Conclusions (13h50- 14h25) *Dessert serving during discussion*

- **Hervé GUIDER**, General Manager, European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)

Background: [EACB Comments on EU Commission High Level Expert Group Interim Report on Sustainable Finance](#)

For any questions, please contact: Elisa Bevilacqua, e.bevilacqua@eachb.coop

Registration

The event is by invitation only, please register via email by 24 November 2017, 12:00 am to secretariat@eachb.coop, cc: e.bevilacqua@eachb.coop

To get accreditation, please provide us with:

Family name First name Date of birth Nationality ID card type No of ID card.
Please be on time and make sure you have your passport or ID card at the European Parliament.

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