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PRESS RELEASE

EACB CEO, Nina Schindler, calls for diversity in her keynote speech at the International Co-operative Banking Association centennial event

On 17-19 November 2022, the International Co-operative Banking Association to mark its 100th year anniversary held a two-day global conference “The People Centeredness of Cooperative Financial Institutions” in Brussels.

On 18 November, the official centennial event brought together the representatives of co-operative banks around the world to discuss the future of financial co-operatives. Topics such as leadership, challenges in regions and sectors (i.e. sustainability, financial literacy, digitisation), the role of CFIs today and the contribution they can make towards sustainable development of communities were discussed.

Nina Schindler, CEO of the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB), delivered a keynote speech on the importance of a strong voice of the co-operative banks and the recognition of their business model and specific governance structure in the EU legislative framework.

During the address, **Nina Schindler underlined the mandate of the EACB** to represent the cooperative banks in front of European regulators and supervisors and **the role of the Association to ensure diversity in the EU Banking Sector**, stating “*Let me be clear: the EACB’s demands a consistent and efficient legislative framework on the European level, which reflects and respects the particularities of cooperative banks. For us diversity is key. Diversity is no luxury. It increases the stability of the banking market, and ensures that all needs are serviced. We have seen that in Europe in the 2008 economic and financial crisis, where the economy of countries with a strong cooperative sector were less affected. And also in the current situation, characterised by important geopolitical uncertainties in the entire world, co-operative banks with their regional and member-focused approach ensure stability and confidence. That is what our people need now.*”



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About the EACB:

The **European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)** is the voice of the co-operative banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 27 member institutions and of co-operative banks in general. Co-operative banks form decentralised networks which are subject to banking as well as co-operative legislation. Democracy, transparency and proximity are the three key characteristics of the co-operative banks’ business model. With 2,700 locally operating banks and 52,000 outlets co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the enlarged European Union, playing a major role in the financial and economic system. They have a long tradition in serving 223 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 85 million members and 705,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.

Website: www.eachb.coop

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The voice of 2.700 local and retail banks, 87 million members, 223 million customers in EU

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