



PRESS RELEASE

**EACB Elects New Leadership and
Explores Use Cases of Central Banks Digital Currencies
at 53rd EACB General Assembly**



Berlin, June 21 – The European Association of Cooperative Banks (EACB) held its 53rd EACB General Assembly (GA) in Berlin, graciously hosted by the National German Association of Cooperative Banks (BVR). Key items on the agenda included the election of a new President and Vice-Presidents of the EACB and its Board, an Internal Auditors.

Priscille Szeradzki, Deputy Director General at Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel (CNCM), was elected President for a term of two years starting as of July 1st, 2024. For the same term, GA members re-elected **Vincent Maagdenberg**, Chief Risk Officer at Rabobank, and elected **Daniel Quinten**, Member of the Board at BVR, as Vice-Presidents.

Sergio Gatti, General Director at Federcasse, **Johannes Rehulka**, Secretary General at Österreichischer Raiffeisenverband (ÖRV), and **Alban Aucoin**, Head of Public Affairs at Crédit Agricole, will join the EACB Board for the next term.

Rainer Borns, Chief Financial Officer at Volksbank Wien, and **David Murano**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Risk Officer at Caja Ingenieros, were appointed as internal auditors of the EACB for a term of 2 years as of 1st of July 2024.

Alongside other members, Vice-President **Maagdenberg** expressed sincere appreciation to outgoing EACB President Daniel Quinten for his engagement and leadership during his interim tenure. EACB Chief Executive Officer **Nina Schindler** also thanked Mr Quinten for his clear steering positioning the Association in relation to the political agenda for the new term 2024-2029, as well as for advancing strategic governance projects of the Association.

Mr Quinten remarked, *“I want to thank the Secretariat and EACB members for their contributions and efforts during this important transitional period between legislative cycles, in which I had the honour of being President.”* Referring to the EACB’s paper [“Cooperative Banks contribution to the future of Europe”](#) with recommendations to the next co-legislators, Mr Quinten emphasised, *“As we venture into a new mandate for EU institutions, we shall strive for streamlining regulation, achieving a more principle-based approach, and implementing more proportionate solutions. For a more competitive and united Europe, the guiding approach to rulemaking should be ‘less is more.’”*

The GA also featured a valuable exchange with **Prof. Dr Joachim Wuermeling**, Executive in Resident at European School of Management and Technology in Berlin, on the innovative potential of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and their opportunities for banks. The discussion explored, among others, CBDC use cases supporting industry 4.0 enabled by smart contacts and programmable

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payments. Mr **Wuermeling's** insights were received with keen interest triggering reflections about CBCD's impact on the workforce, the role of AI and practical implications of the ECB work on a retail digital euro.

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About the EACB:

The European Association of Co-operative Banks ([EACB](#)) is the voice of the cooperative banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 27 member institutions and of cooperative banks in general. Cooperative banks form decentralised networks which are subject to banking as well as cooperative legislation. Democracy, transparency and proximity are the three key characteristics of the cooperative banks' business model. With 2,500 locally operating banks and 40,000 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 225 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and communities. The cooperative banks in Europe represent 89 million members and 720,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.

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