



Paris, December 12 2008

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Fortis : BNP Paribas has noted the Court of Appeal's decision in Brussels**

BNP Paribas has noted the Court of Appeal's decision in Brussels dated 12th of december 2008.

This decision in no way calls into question the interest of this deal, bringing Fortis Bank SA and Fortis Insurance Belgium together with BNP Paribas, which is in the best interests of Fortis's clients and staff.

With the authorities and the various interested parties, BNP Paribas will examine all options, including legal, to close this deal efficiently and quickly.

### **About BNP Paribas**

BNP Paribas ([www.bnpparibas.com](http://www.bnpparibas.com)) is a European leader in global banking and financial services and is one of the 3 strongest banks in the world according to Standard & Poor's. The group is present in 85 countries, with more than 171,000 employees, including 131.000 in Europe. The group holds key positions in three major segments: Corporate and Investment Banking, Asset Management & Services and Retail Banking. Present throughout Europe in all of its business lines, the bank's two domestic markets in retail banking are France and Italy. BNP Paribas also has a significant presence in the United States and strong positions in Asia and the emerging markets.

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