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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Given the ruling by the Brussels Court of Appeal on December 12th, 2008, the acquisition of a stake by BNP Paribas in Fortis Banque cannot proceed as initially planned.

As a result, the shareholders' meeting convened on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, will no longer take place.

### **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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