



## Press release

### **Groupe Banque Populaire and Groupe Caisse d'Epargne BFBP- CNCE merger plan**

**Paris, April 15, 2009**

The bill relating to the creation of a new central body common to the Caisse d'Epargne and Banque Populaire banks was submitted today to the Cabinet meeting.

It gives the new group a clear legal framework in line with the cooperative principles of the Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Epargne banks. This bill defines the new central body's objectives and strengthens its role regarding risk, liquidity and capital adequacy management and internal control. The collective interest role of the Caisse d'Epargne banks is reaffirmed.

According to François Pérol, BFBP's Chief Executive Officer and CNCE's Chairman of the Management Board, *"This bill is part of the merger process. Its content marks an intent to create the second largest French banking group via the establishment of a new single central body that will perform its duties in compliance with the founding principles of the two cooperative groups and the independence of the two banking networks"*.

The merger process continues in accordance with the scheduled timetable with a view to carrying this out by the end of the first-half of 2009.

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