

Press release
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Groupe Caisse d'Épargne and the *Fédération des Entreprises publiques locales* renew their partnership

Groupe Caisse d'Épargne and the *Fédération des Entreprises publiques locales* (FedEpl, or the Federation of Local Public Enterprises/Semi-Public Companies) have renewed their partnership agreement at a signing ceremony organized between Alain Lemaire, Chief Executive Officer of Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne, and Martial Passi, Chairman of FedEpl, within the framework of the "*Rencontre nationale des Epl*", the national meeting of local public enterprises/semi-public companies, of which Groupe Caisse d'Épargne enjoyed the status of exclusive partner.

The aim of this partnership for Groupe Caisse d'Épargne, one of the principal partners of FedEpl and a member of its Board of Directors, is to give concrete expression to its commitment to the development of local public enterprises in the local public-sector market through, in particular, the activities of GCE SEM, a Group subsidiary set up to structure the equity interests held by Groupe Caisse d'Épargne in French semi-private companies and to offer them a range of support services.

This commitment further reinforces the already long-standing cooperation between Groupe Caisse d'Épargne, the largest private shareholder in semi-private companies in France with an interest in the capital of almost 500 such entities, and FedEpl. This cooperation has enabled both partners to collaborate successfully on a large number of projects:

- The publication of the guidebook "*The Caisses d'Épargne and Semi-Private Companies*," which highlights the active involvement of the French savings banks in semi-private companies in France,
- The proposal of a "*Charter for Semi-Public Company Directors*," an initiative launched by Groupe Caisse d'Épargne to lay the foundations for deontological practices in the administration of French semi-private companies,
- The support provided by Groupe Caisse d'Épargne in the organization of the annual Congress of Local Public Enterprises,
- The contributions of experts from Groupe Caisse d'Épargne on the question of public-private partnerships,
- The hosting of an annual meeting of administrative and financial directors of semi-private companies in the offices of Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne.

"At a time when Groupe Caisse d'Épargne is writing a new page in its history, our ambition to be the banker and principal partner of local public enterprises remains unchanged: semi-private companies are not only the historical partners of the French savings banks; they are also the partners of the future," said Alain Lemaire during the ceremony held to renew the agreement for 2009.

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