



Press Release

François Pérol, Chairman of Groupe BPCE's Management Board appointed Chairman of the European Savings Banks Group

Paris, June 12, 2012

During the Board Meeting of 8 June, the members of ESBG (European Savings Banks Group) elected Mr. François Pérol, Chairman of the Management Board of BPCE (France) as new Chairman of the ESBG for the period 2012-2015. A new Executive Committee and Board of Directors were also elected for a three year mandate.

François Pérol declared: "The future of the European banking sector, in these tumultuous times, lies for a considerable part in the hands of the European institutions and their leaders. An EU-wide interest representation organisation such as ESBG is of crucial importance and I will do all that I can to use the efficiency and interest representation power of the ESBG to the advantage of the savings and retail banks that are its members. Since savings and retail banks are an important and sustainable part of the European economy, they deserve the best promotion of their interests with policymakers and opinion leaders".

During the same meeting, a new executive committee was elected. This Committee defines the strategic guidelines for the future of ESBG, with the ultimate goals of strengthening the role of the organisation as the European voice for savings and retail banking.

The ESBG executive committee is as follows:

Chairman: François PÉROL, BPCE (France)

First vice-chairman: Isidro FAINÉ, CECA (Confederación Española de Cajas de Ahorros – Spanish Confederation of Savings Banks)

Vice-Presidents:

Christian AICHINGER, Österreichischer Sparkassenverband (Austrian Association of Savings Banks)

Georg FAHRENSCHON, Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband (DSGV – German Association of Savings Banks), Germany

Anders SUNDSTROM, Swedbank, Sweden

Norbert PLATTNER, Italian Association of Savings Banks and Foundations (ACRI), who is also the ESBG Treasurer

Defining strategic guidelines for the future of ESBG, the President's Committee is an important high-level platform, whose decisions aim to strengthen ESBG as the European voice for savings and retail banking.

François Pérol

A graduate of the HEC School of Management and of the Paris Institute of Political Science (Sciences Po), as well as a former student at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) François Pérol began his career in 1990 as an auditor, in the General Inspectorate of Finance. In 1994, he was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Interdepartmental Commission for Industrial Restructuring (CIRI). In 1996, he moved to the French Treasury Department to assume responsibility as the head of the Financial Markets Office.

Between 1999 and 2001, he served as Secretary General of the Paris Club responsible for international negotiations with debtor countries. In 2001, he became Assistant Director responsible for business financing and development in the French Treasury Department before being appointed deputy Chief of Staff to Francis Mer, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry in the French Government, and remained in this position in 2004 when Nicolas Sarkozy was appointed Ministre d'Etat, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry. In 2005, he became a General Partner of the investment bank Rothschild & Cie.

In May 2007, François Pérol was appointed deputy Secretary General to the Presidency of the French Republic, in charge of economic issues. On 1 August, 2009, after serving as Chairman of the Management Board of Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne (CNCE) and Chief Executive Officer of Banque Fédérale des Banques Populaires (BFBP) for five months, since March 2009, François Pérol became Chairman of the Management Board of BPCE, the second largest banking group in France resulting from the completed merger between the Groupe Banque Populaire and the Groupe Caisse d'Épargne. From 1 September 2010 until 1 September 2011, François Pérol was Chairman of the French Banking Federation.

About Groupe BPCE:

Groupe BPCE, the 2nd-largest banking group in France, includes two independent and complementary commercial banking networks: the network of 19 Banque Populaire banks and the network of 17 Caisses d'Épargne. It also works through Crédit Foncier de France in the area of real estate financing. It is a major player in corporate & investment banking, asset management and financial services with Natixis. Groupe BPCE serves more than 36 million customers and enjoys a strong presence in France with 8,000 branches, 117,000 employees and more than 8.1 million cooperative shareholders.

About ESBG:

The European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) is an international banking association which represents one of the largest European retail banking networks, comprising about one third of the retail banking market in Europe, with total assets of over €7,470 billion (end 2010). It represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis the EU Institutions and generates, facilitates and manages high quality cross-border banking projects.

Members of ESBG are committed to the "3 R's" of banking:

Retail: their main market focus is on individuals, SMEs and/or local authorities.

Regional: they provide access to financial services through a broad network of outlets and act as proximity bankers.

Responsible: they demonstrate responsibility both in their business approach and towards the society in which they operate.

Please visit www.savings-banks.com for more information.

BPCE Press Contacts

Terence de Cruz : 33 1 40 39 64 30
Sonia Dilouya: 33(0)1 58 40 58 57
presse@bpce.fr - www.bpce.fr

ESBG Press Contact

Dirk Smet Tel: +32 211 11 90
dirk.smet@savings-banks.com