

## Press Release

**BPCE and Equistone Partners Europe announce they have entered into exclusive discussions regarding the sale of Meilleurtaux**

Paris, February 18, 2013

**As part of the continued implementation of its strategic plan, BPCE has announced that it has entered into exclusive discussions with Equistone Partners Europe Limited with a view to selling its 100% stake in Meilleurtaux's capital.**

François Pérol, chairman of BPCE's management board, said: *"Under the joint impetus of BPCE and the management of Meilleurtaux, the former has completed its transformation to become an agile and dynamic structure. Meilleurtaux will continue to grow with a buyer convinced of the development potential of the Company".*

The transaction will soon be subject to the process of informing and consulting the staff representative bodies concerned at BPCE and Meilleurtaux.

### **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'Epargne. It also works through Crédit Foncier de France in the area of real estate financing. It is a major player in wholesale 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 8.6 million cooperative shareholders.*

### **About Equistone Partners Europe**

*Equistone Partners Europe Limited is an independent investment firm owned and managed by the former executives of Barclays Private Equity. In January 2013, Equistone successfully completed the final closing of Equistone Partners Europe Fund IV with total capital commitments of €1.5bn. The Company is one of Europe's leading investors in mid-market buyouts with a successful track record spanning over 30 years, with more than 350 transactions completed in this period. Equistone has a strong focus on change of ownership deals and aims to invest between €25m and €125m of equity in businesses with enterprise values of between €50m and €300m. The Company has a team of 33 investment professionals operating across France, Germany, Switzerland and the UK, investing as a strategic partner alongside management teams. Equistone Partners Europe Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.*

*For further information, please visit [www.equistonepe.com](http://www.equistonepe.com)*

**About Meilleurtaux:**

*Since 1999, Meilleurtaux has helped future owners looking for a real estate mortgage and connected them with banks in order to give them the best financing solution (credit rate, loan insurance, etc.), according to their profile and their project. Meilleurtaux also offers solutions consumer credit and insurance. Services are accessible from the website [www.meilleurtaux.com](http://www.meilleurtaux.com), via phone platforms, or in one of the 166 branches in Paris and regions.*

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