

40 Member States

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Republic of Macedonia"](#)[Turkey](#)

Crédit Coopératif and the CEB renew their partnership: 100 million euro loan in support of general interest projects

Paris, 16 September 2009: Jean-Louis Bancel, Chairman of Crédit Coopératif, and Apolonio Ruiz-Ligero, Vice-Governor of the CEB, today signed a 100 million euro loan agreement aimed at financing the construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure in the health, education and vocational training sectors and at improving the quality of life in urban and rural areas throughout France.

This loan agreement renews the partnership commitment made by the Council of Europe Development Bank when, in 2007, it granted an initial loan of 50 million euros to Crédit Coopératif.

The projects that will be receiving CEB funds are primarily targeted to vulnerable population groups: the elderly and the disabled faced with illness or in a state of dependence, on the one hand, young people and adults in difficult social situations, on the other. The wider aim of these investments is to contribute to strengthening social cohesion.

Crédit Coopératif is a cooperative banking group set up in 1893 for the purpose of providing financing to social economy enterprises. It is the reference bank for associations, mutual benefit groups and cooperatives, which in France occupy a prime position in non-profit general interest activities and services: medico-social sector, social and "very social" housing, insertion, environment, culture, education, etc. With its network of 70 agencies, It is active throughout France.

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*Set up in 1956, the **CEB** (Council of Europe Development Bank) has **40 Member States**. 18 Central and Eastern European countries are listed among the Member States.*

As a major instrument of the policy of solidarity in Europe, the Bank finances social projects by making available to them resources raised in conditions reflecting the quality of its rating (AAA with Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's). It thus grants loans to its member states, to financial institutions and to local authorities for the financing of projects in the social sector, in accordance with its Articles of Agreement.