

40 Member States

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CEB support for FLW action in favour of large low-income families in Wallonia

Paris, 16 December 2009: the *Fonds du Logement des familles nombreuses de Wallonie (FLW)* represented by Mr Tesain, Mr Minet, Mr Sciarra and the CEB, represented by Mr. Tarafás, Vice-Governor, signed a first loan contract for an amount of 50 million euros.

The CEB funds will enable the FLW to grant some 1 100 social mortgage loans to low-income families as well as 0% interest-rate loans granted within the framework of its "green loan" programme intended to cover energy-saving works.

To date, the CEB is the only international financial institution to lend its support to the FLW in order to help vulnerable populations and combat child poverty.

The FLW is a private-law corporation to which the Walloon Region assigns a vital role in the field of housing and the social integration of large, low-income, poor or insecure families, entrusting it with public-interest missions.

Since the country joined the CEB in 1956, **10 projects have been approved in Belgium** for an accumulated amount of **420 million euros**.

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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.