

40 member states

Albania

Belgium

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Georgia

Germany

Greece

Holy See

Hungary

Iceland

Ireland

Italy

Latvia

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Moldova

Montenegro

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Romania

San Marino

Serbia

Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

"the former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia"

Turkey

The CEB supports OSEO's action in favour of French SMEs

Paris, 8 December 2008:

François Drouin, Chairman and CEO of OSEO, and Raphaël Alomar, Governor of the CEB, today signed a loan worth 100 million euros aimed at strengthening the financial resources made available to SMEs. The targeted businesses are located in the regions of France most affected by unemployment so as to enable them to undertake the productive investments needed to maintain and develop their activities.

The long-term resources granted by the CEB will enable OSEO Financing to intensify its direct loans to SMEs, in particular with a view to financing heavy corporal investments (real estate and large-scale equipment programmes) for which the financial capacity of SMEs is often limited.

On this occasion, Raphaël Alomar and François Drouin expressed their satisfaction with respect to the continuing partnership between the CEB and OSEO, indicating that this joint undertaking would contribute to providing support for the local economic fabric as well as to preserving and creating jobs in French SMEs in a particularly difficult economic context.

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OSEO is a public organisation supporting innovation and growth in businesses. It covers three complementary areas of activity:

- ***providing innovation support (subsidies and reimbursable advances),***
- ***funding investments and the operating cycle, alongside banks,***
- ***guaranteeing funding granted by banks and equity capital investors.***

More particularly, OSEO provides funding in the more risky phases in the life of an SME – creation, transfer, innovation, growth, development, particularly international – in partnership with all the economic actors.

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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.