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## Press Release

### **European Banks believe in National Approach for Financial Inclusion**

On the occasion of the conference on Financial Inclusion organised today by the European Commission, Giuseppe Zadra, Chairman of EBIC, the European Banking Industry Committee, stressed the importance of financial inclusion for banks and consumers alike, however handled at national level.

For banks, the conference has shown that the issues of access to banking services and financial inclusion are handled successfully in different ways in the Member States. Banks therefore feel that these issues need different responses from policy makers and industry, responses that adapt to the different cultural habits and national situations.

European banks welcome the debate at European level and strongly believe in promoting good practices, as shows the commitment of many banks in this field, but they however advocate the strict application of the principle of subsidiarity when it comes to specific measures. *“Competences should not be mixed up”*, declared Zadra. *“Any measures in the area of access to basic banking services should be taken at national level.”*

Banks also see a strong link between financial inclusion and enhancing the level of EU citizens' financial education. Raising awareness about financial products and management of own financial resources might greatly contribute to help consumers not to be excluded from certain areas of banking. It is therefore in everyone's interest, including banks, to ensure that people understand financial needs, products and services. This is another field banks and national banking associations are deeply involved in, at national level in particular.

*“We should continue to promote best practices in order to learn from each other, but we should not aim for guidelines or binding rules at EU level”*, concluded Zadra. *“A major success factor is the way in which individual banks and national associations will continue to work with a wide variety of partners, including governments, consumer organisations and regulators to solve some of society's most delicate problems.”*



## European Banking Industry Committee

European Banking Federation (EBF) European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) European Association of Cooperative Banks (EACB)  
European Mortgage Federation (EMF) European Federation of Building Societies (EFBS)  
European Federation of Finance House Associations (Eurofinas)/European Federation of Leasing Company Associations (Leaseurope)  
European Association of Public Banks (EAPB)

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