



## 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)

Monday 19 January 2004

### Press Release

#### **Launch of EBiC: A Coordinated Voice for European Banks**

On Thursday 15 January, European banking industry federations launched the **European Banking Industry Committee (EBiC)**, aimed at facilitating industry consultation by the EU institutions.

Inaugurated in the presence of Mr Alexander Schaub, Director General Internal Market of the European Commission, the EBiC was established by the main banking industry federations: the European Banking Federation (FBE), the European Savings Banks Group (ESBG), the European Association of Cooperative Banks (EACB) the European Mortgage Federation (EMF), the European Association of Public Banks (EAPB), the European Federation of Building Societies (EFBS), and the European Federation of Finance House Associations (Eurofinas) / the European Federation of Leasing Company Associations (Leaseurope).

Its aim is to allow market participants to provide advice and ensure a representative and coordinated industry view throughout the process of drafting, adopting, implementing and enforcing EU-financial legislation. Together, these associations will advise the Commission on legislative initiatives. They also intend to play a key consultative role in the framework of the Lamfalussy process, as it is established in the financial sector. Furthermore, the EBiC will answer requests for consultation from other relevant committees involved in the "comitology process", as well as from European institutions; it will at the same time inform relevant bodies of the latest developments in the credit sector industry.

Strategic issues will be at the core of the EBiC's mission and preoccupations, such as defining policy approaches fitting retail and wholesale banking respectively; taking account of consumer expectations in financial services; encouraging convergence in prudential supervision; developing a European position on international issues such as Basel and accounting, and representing the industry views in the Lamfalussy Procedure.

The EBiC will be chaired by Ian Mullen, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the FBE, while vice-chairman will be Christopher Pleister, vice-president of the EACB. The secretariat will be coordinated by the ESBG. All mandates will be on a rotating basis for two years.









This industry initiative answers a wish expressed by several European institutions and on Friday 16 January, the chairman and industry delegates presented the EBiC to Commissioner Bolkestein. By pro-actively launching such a crucial project, European credit sector federations prove once again that they are willing to be together at the forefront of the realisation of the single market in financial services.



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