



PRESS INVITATION



4th EACB Convention

The 4th Convention of the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) will be held at the European Parliament in Brussels on **Thursday, 8 April 2010**. Journalists who report on the financial sector and European affairs are cordially invited to attend this conference. The 4th Convention on Co-operative Banks in Europe is a high-level event dedicated to co-operative banks. Europe has 4,200 co-operative banks with a total of 50 million members and 160 million customers. The co-operative banking business model is based on member control and local presence.

Keynote Speakers and Panellists

The following is an overview of the contributors to the 4th Convention:

- **Piet Moerland**, President of the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) and Chairman of the Rabobank Group Executive Board
- **Gianni Pittella**, MEP, First Vice President of the European Parliament and Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- **Rainer Borns**, Member of the Board of Österreichischer Genossenschaftsverband
- **Giovanni Carosio**, Chair of the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS)
- **Gerhard Hofmann**, Vice President of the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) and Member of the Board of Bundesverband der Deutschen Volksbanken und Raiffeisenbanken (BVR)
- **Othmar Karas**, MEP and Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament
- **Soledad Núñez**, Director General of the Treasury and Financial Policy Ministry, Spanish EU Presidency
- **Stefan Walter**, Secretary General of the Basel Committee
- **David Wright**, Deputy Director General of the Internal Market & Services Directorate General of the European Commission
- **Marcello Bianchi**, Chair of the Steering Group on Corporate Governance of the OECD
- **Claire Bury**, Head of the Company Law, Corporate Governance and Financial Crime Unit of the European Commission
- **Arnold Kuijpers**, Managing Director of Rabobank Development
- **Daniele Nouy**, Secretary General of the French Banking Commission
- **Etienne Pflimlin**, President of Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel

The voice of 4,200 local and retail banks, 50 million members, 160 million customers

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- **Hervé Guider**, General Manager of the European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB)
- **Andrea Benassi**, Secretary General of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME)
- **Pervenche Berès**, MEP and Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament
- **Maurizio Comoli**, Member of the Board of the European Association of Co-operative Banks and Vice President of the Supervisory Board of Banco Popolare
- **Giovanni Ferri**, Member of the European Think Tank on Co-operative Banks and Chairman of the Department of Economics & Mathematics at the University of Bari
- **David Llewellyn**, Associate of the Oxford Centre for Mutual and Employee-owned Business and Professor of Banking at the University of Loughborough
- **Marc Pouzet**, Member of the Board of Fédération Nationale du Crédit Agricole and President of Crédit Agricole Alpes-Provence
- **Michel Barnier**¹, EU Commissioner for Internal Market and Services

Topics

The speakers, panellists and participants will debate the following topics:

- **The new regulatory framework: Reshaping 4,200 co-operative banks?**

The G-20 and the European Institutions roadmap on the new rules for the supervisory framework, the definition of capital and own funds and the so called CRD 4 are, among others, initiatives taken to safeguard the financial stability at international level. However those measures might have a major impact on decentralised networks like co-operative banks. While co-operative banks have demonstrated their solidity and resilience during the recent financial turmoil, they could nevertheless be strongly impacted by the new regulatory framework.

- **How can the specific attributes of the co-operative model contribute to initiatives on corporate governance?**

This topic will focus on the initiatives in the field of corporate governance at the level of European and international institutions such as the role and competences of the board of directors, remuneration policies, internal control and risk management. Does the unique democratic governance of co-operative banks whereby voting rights are held by the person and not by the share fit in with this new framework?

- **More than a bank, a co-operative bank**

This topic will focus on the identity and distinguishing features of co-operative banks in a changing banking environment. How do co-operative banks make a difference? What does it mean to sustain the real economy and to put customers and SMEs at the heart of business?

This 4th Convention is being held within the context of the current recovery following the financial turmoil and will highlight the particular position of co-operative banks in this regard. The 40th anniversary of the EACB will also be celebrated on the same day and additional information about the history of the EACB can be [provided](#).

¹ To be confirmed



Audience

The 4th Convention will bring together high-level policymakers, regulators and supervisors from the European and national institutions. The convention will also be attended by representatives of the different co-operative banks and members of the EACB. Between 200 and 250 high-ranking invited guests will meet for the full day to discuss the future and the challenges of the new European financial regulation and the role co-operative banks have to play with respect to the economic recovery.

Languages

Simultaneous translation into English, French, German and Italian will be provided during all the sessions.

Support for journalists

A press kit will be distributed by the dedicated staff before the start of the Convention and a press release will be issued immediately at the end of the day.

Registration

Journalists are welcome to attend the 4th EACB Convention. You can register to attend free of charge by sending an e-mail to eacb@emcnet.eu. Please state your name, telephone number and the name of your organisation in your e-mail. The Convention secretariat will send you an acknowledgement of receipt and provide you with the guidelines for obtaining security clearance and access to the European Parliament.

Registration before the event is **compulsory** and must be completed **before Friday, 2 April 2010**.

More information

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Elisa Bevilacqua of the EACB by telephone on +32 2 286 984 or by e-mail at e.bevilacqua@eurocoopbanks.coop

More information is available online:

- The website of the 4th Convention of the EACB: www.eacbconvention2010.eu
- The website of the EACB: www.eurocoopbank.coop
- The following information is provided:
- A historical review of the EACB