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PRESS RELEASE

BGL BNP Paribas is proud to present, in its Doers & Thinkers lecture series,

Gideon Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs Commentator of the Financial Times

Europe 2011: A Make or a Break?

What lies ahead for Europe? Faced with the turmoil of economic crisis, member countries' debt overloads, and its own internal disputes, how, exactly, will the European Union come through 2011? This question goes to the heart of concerns expressed by all stakeholders and observers of business and the economy. Gideon Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs Commentator of the Financial Times, has no doubt that "2011 will be a decisive year for the EU for two main reasons: We will discover if the fiscal and economic reforms put in place this year will be enough to restore growth and solve the debt crisis. And we will find out whether the EU is capable of political reforms in response to the debt crisis."

A long-time observer of the business scene and a special guest in the BGL BNP Paribas "Doers & Thinkers" lecture series, Mr Rachman notes with regret the absence of a genuine European economic policy. In his view, that is a major threat to the future of the European Union, which is reduced to hoping that policy-making in countries put under severe pressure from the 2008 crisis will nonetheless function properly.

Gideon Rachman's analysis highlights the fundamental challenges of 2011 in a world economy where prospects are clouded by multiple uncertainties. His career path lends special credit to that analysis: Mr Rachman started his career with the BBC and then spent 15 years at The Economist before joining the Financial Times.

Doers & Thinkers lectures have been presented twice a year for nearly five years. Organized by BGL BNP Paribas especially for clients and special partners, they give audiences an opportunity to hear insights from either an entrepreneur (*Doer*) or a specialist from the world of academia or research (*Thinker*). In each case, the aim is to promote a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation.

About BGL BNP Paribas

BGL BNP Paribas (www.bgl.lu) is one of the largest banks in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, with a balance sheet totalling EUR 52.5 billion at 30 June 2010. Now a leader on its domestic market, it offers an especially wide range of financial products to individuals, professionals, private banking clients and businesses. BGL BNP Paribas is Luxembourg's number-one provider of banking services to professionals and small- and medium-size companies, and number two in services for individuals. It is also the leader for bancassurance.



About BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas (www.bnpparibas.com) is one of the six strongest banks in the world* and the largest bank in the eurozone by deposits. With a presence in more than 80 countries and more than 200,000 employees, including 160,000 in Europe, BNP Paribas is a leading European provider of financial services on a worldwide scale. It ranks highly in its three core activities: Retail Banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking. In Retail Banking, the Group has four domestic markets: Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated model across the Europe-Mediterranean zone and boasts a large network in the United States. BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the leader in consumer lending in Europe. In its Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe and solid and fast-growing businesses in Asia.

* Rated AA by Standard & Poor's i.e. 3rd rating level on a scale of 22.

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