



PRESS RELEASE
BGL BNP Paribas earmarks one billion euros for Luxembourg companies in 2012

BGL BNP Paribas is stepping up its backing for small and midsize enterprises (SMEs) in Luxembourg. It has earmarked one billion euros to support their activities and investment plans.

In doing so, the bank is entrenching its position as a leading financial partner for business in the Grand Duchy. With a 38 per cent share of the SME market¹, BGL BNP Paribas ranks number one for business financing in Luxembourg.

Commenting, Kik Schneider, a member of the BGL BNP Paribas Management Board and Head of Retail and Corporate Banking in Luxembourg, said: "Business financing is one of BGL BNP Paribas' main occupations. It is absolutely vital for companies to continue investing, especially during a crisis. By earmarking one billion euros for this segment, we intend not only to move ahead with existing partnerships but also to bolster business creation and make the Luxembourg economy more competitive. Our group is solid, and we are able to fund both large and smaller-scale projects."

In 2011 the bank analysed some 7,500 financing applications and provided a total of 880 million euros through a comprehensive range of solutions tailored to companies' specific needs.

The bank's SME experts are present in six Competence Centres throughout the country (*Nord, Est, Sud, Centre Ouest, Centre Ville, Centre Est*). They help companies realise their plans with financing solutions ranging from investment loans to fixed-term and cash advances, as well as finance and operating leases, factoring services and government-subsidised loans.

By earmarking one billion euros for Luxembourg companies in 2012, BGL BNP Paribas is underscoring its strong commitment and determination to fulfil its role in financing the country's economy, thus helping it to rebound.

¹ Source : Etude biennale ILRES 2010



About BGL BNP Paribas

BGL BNP Paribas (www.bgl.lu) is one of the largest banks in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. As 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. In 2011 the international magazine *The Banker* named BGL BNP Paribas "Bank of the Year" in Luxembourg.

About BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas (www.bnpparibas.com) has a presence in 80 countries with nearly 200,000 employees, including more than 150,000 in Europe. It ranks highly in its three core activities: Retail Banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking. In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail banking model across Mediterranean basin countries, in Turkey, in Eastern Europe and a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas and solid and fast-growing businesses in Asia.

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