

Brussels, 19 February 2009

## **European Banks Committed to the Creation of a European CCP**

In a letter sent yesterday to Commissioner McCreevy, in charge of Internal Market, Alessandro Profumo, President of the European Banking Federation (EBF) and CEO of Unicredit Group, clearly expressed the Federation's support to the establishment of central counterparties (CCPs) to facilitate the clearing of Credit Default Swaps in Europe.

The EBF represents both buyers and sellers in the derivatives market, which gives it ample legitimacy to contribute actively to the debate. "The objective of a European clearing is necessary and it will be pursued", declared Guido Ravoet, Secretary General of the EBF: "There is a broad cross-industry consensus on this issue". In this respect, the EBF position is also in line with that of the large dealer firms who signed a letter of commitment towards European clearing of CDS this week.

The EBF has no preference as to the location of the (one or more) CCP(s) but above all it wishes for these Central Counterparties to be safe, sound, efficient and reliable. They should first and foremost meet the users' requirements in terms of technical specification and governance.

The European Banking Federation has been working closely with the European Central Bank to facilitate a common set of user requirements for prospective CCPs, which were developed during a meeting held on 13 February at the ECB. In a second meeting at the ECB, on 24 February, the discussion should take place between vendors and potential customers, hopefully leading to what already seems to be a broad convergence of views.

In his letter, Alessandro Profumo also urged members of the European Parliament to reconsider amendments to the Capital Requirements Directive, which are currently being debated, in light of the current progress made on CCPs.

### **Contacts**

European Banking Federation  
Fédération Bancaire Européenne (aisbl)  
10 rue Montoyer B- 1000 Brussels

Stephen Fisher, Adviser  
+32(0)2 508 37 45 [s.fisher@ebf-fbe.eu](mailto:s.fisher@ebf-fbe.eu)  
Barbara McIntosh, Communications Coordinator  
+32 (0)2 508 37 16 [b.mcintosh@ebf-fbe.eu](mailto:b.mcintosh@ebf-fbe.eu)

### **Note to the Editor**

Set up in 1960, the European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector (EU and EFTA countries). The EBF represents the interests of some 5000 European banks: large and small, wholesale and retail, local and cross-border financial institutions