



Press Release – **EMBARGOED till 18:30, 20 April**

## **National and regional promotional banks (NPBs) are key for success of Juncker plan**

EU Parliament position opens the way for effective participation of NPBs in European Investment Plan

**20 April 2015, Brussels:** The European Association of Public Banks (EAPB) welcomes the results of the vote by the European Parliament on the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

For many years, EAPB has been a strong advocate for closer coordination and cooperation between the activities of the European Investment Bank and NPBs. EAPB sees a great potential for synergies to the benefits of the European Economy. Therefore, it is important to pursue the plan's objectives close to the ground in cooperation with local economic and political actors. NPBs are deeply anchored in their territories and know their local economies, regions, municipalities and SMEs and their needs very well.

From the start of the financial crisis in 2007 until today, national and regional promotional banks across Europe have demonstrated their capacity of swiftly responding to the sharply reduced access to finance. By providing dedicated financial instruments in form of working capital loans, SME loan guarantees, global loans for partner banks, equity instruments, counter-guarantees, as well as advisory services for SMEs affected by the crisis and many others, they have contributed an important share to keeping the EU economy running during the crisis years. They have also played a key role in jump-starting investments in national, regional and municipal infrastructure projects across Europe. This financial instrument expertise will be a key asset for the implementation of the Juncker plan.

Mr Ron Walkier, President of the EAPB comments:

"National Promotional Banks are ready to play an important role in helping re-launch the European Economy in line with their public mandates and where possible, via the cooperation mechanisms put forward by the Juncker plan."

**ENDS**



## European Association of Public Banks

- European Association of Public Banks and Funding Agencies AISBL -

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### **Notes to Editor:**

-The legislative proposal aiming to set up the EFSI can be found [here](#).

-Background: The BUDG and ECON Committees of the European Parliament have taken into consideration the diversity of types of institutions and public interest missions of national promotional banks in the different European Member States and regions. They have also made the plan more effective by extending the EU guarantee to the activities of national promotional banks under EFSI. The final text is expected to be adopted formally by June 2015 after agreement between the Parliament and the Council.

### **About EAPB:**

The European Association of Public Banks represents public banks and funding agencies and their specific tasks at the European level. EAPB has several members from various European countries representing directly and indirectly about 90 financial institutions. EAPB members constitute an essential part of the European financial sector, in which they play a decisive role with a market share of approximately 15% a balance sheet of about EUR 3.500 billion and around 190.000 employees. Members of the EAPB are financial institutions, funding agencies, public banks, associations of public banks and banks with similar interests.