

GROUPE



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PRESS RELEASE

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## Paris conference on social infrastructure

**Paris, 10 July 2017, On 10 July, the Caisse des Dépôts (CDC) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) organised, under the auspices of the European Association of Long-Term Investors (ELTI), a conference on “Financing social infrastructure” which gathered more than a hundred European participants. The high level speakers, including former European Commission President Romano Prodi and the former French Economy and Finance Minister Christian Sautter, noted a lack of investment in the fields of “Education, health and social housing in the European Union”.**

The conference stressed the importance of finding innovative financing for these infrastructures which have a strong impact on the daily lives of European citizens. Hospitals, universities and social housing are all sectors that ensure both the attractiveness of the territories and the well-being of citizens.

Opening the conference, Pierre-René Lemas, Director General of CDC, underlined the role of an institution such as the Caisse des Dépôts in financing social infrastructure. *“The role of the Caisse des Dépôts is to accompany the territories by funding the necessary equipment so essential for the daily life of all citizens: social housing, hospitals, universities, public buildings.”*

CEB Governor Rolf Wenzel said: *“Promoting inclusive growth through the financing of social infrastructure projects is one of the CEB’s priority areas of operation, and I am pleased that the conference addresses this important issue. Indeed, in recent years we have stepped up our cooperation with central governments, regional authorities and municipalities in our member countries in order to lend our full support to their social investments.”*

Concluding the conference, Laurent Zylberberg, President of the ELTI association, recalled the important contribution that European public financial institutions can make to the reflection on the financing of social infrastructure. *“By taking the initiative to launch a reflection on the financing of social infrastructure, and with the support of prominent figures like Romano Prodi and Christian Sautter, our association affirms the social relevance of the economic model of long-term investors.”*



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## The Caisse des Dépôts Group

Caisse des Dépôts and its subsidiaries are a state-owned group, a long-term investor dedicated to serving the public interest and regional economic development. Its vocation was reaffirmed by the law on modernisation of the economy of 4 August 2008.

Widely recognised for its expertise in managing its areas of competence, the group focuses its efforts on four major areas of transition strategically vital to France's long-term development: territorial, ecology and energy, digital, demographic and social.

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### About CEB

*Set up in 1956, the CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank) has 41 member states. Twenty-two Central, Eastern and South Eastern European countries, forming the Bank's target countries, are listed among the member states. As a major instrument of the policy of solidarity in Europe, the Bank finances social projects by making available resources raised in conditions reflecting the quality of its rating (Aa1 with Moody's, outlook stable, AA+ with Standard & Poor's, outlook positive and AA+ with Fitch Ratings, outlook stable). It thus grants loans to its member states, and to financial institutions and local authorities in its member states for the financing of projects in the social sector, in accordance with its Articles of Agreement.*

[www.coebank.org](http://www.coebank.org)

### About ELTI

*Launched in July 2013, the Association gathers 27 members including National Promotional Banks and Institutions from 21 EU Member States and Turkey, European long-term financial institutions and the Long-Term Infrastructure Investors Association. The European Investment Bank is permanent Observer. With a combined balance sheet of € 1.5 trillion, ELTI's goal is to promote long-term investment in close alignment with the objectives and initiatives developed by the European Union to foster sustainable, smart and inclusive growth and job creation.*

[www.eltia.eu](http://www.eltia.eu)

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