

NEWS FLASH

Paris, 1st April 2014

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEEK: SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE IS REITERATING ITS COMMITMENTS

To mark Sustainable Development Week, which is taking place between 1 and 7 April 2014, SociÉTé Générale is reiterating its sustainable development and Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSR) commitments.

“The Group takes sustainable development issues into account in its long-term strategy, and in the day-to-day conduct of its business activities. SociÉTé Générale wants to be the standard-setting relationship bank for its clients, and takes care to respond to their financial requirements in a responsible manner, and to play its full role in financing the economy. Accordingly, the Group’s CSR initiatives are recognised by extra-financial rating agencies, and it is also included in the main stock market sustainable development indices”, Jean-Michel Mépuis, the Group’s Director of Sustainable Development and CSR, comments.



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The Group is committed to an ongoing improvement approach based on five strategic priorities, which are conveyed in all its business lines.

1. DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLE FINANCING

Implementing a responsible financing approach is based on a series of institutional commitments (Global Compact, Equator Principles, and Wolfsberg Principles, etc.), and on the best practices in the market. These rules have been set down in internal directives, including the Conduct Code, the Tax Conduct Code, the General E&S Principles, and in Sector and Cross-Divisional Policies, etc.

We would mention a few initiatives conducted in 2013:

Corporate financing and advisory activities:

- ✓ two new sector-based policies (palm oil and forest management) have been added to the eight existing policies. From a practical standpoint where these sectors are concerned, the assessment and granting of loans, and the Bank’s advisory activities take into account the way in which our clients manage the social and environmental impact of their projects or businesses.
- ✓ 51 projects were assessed and classified in accordance with the requirements of the Equator Principles in 2013, including advisory mandates.

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- ✓ Around 150 KYC (Know Your Client) analysts received training on assessing clients from an E&S standpoint in 2013.

Business activities involving individual customers:

- ✓ the continuation of the “Responsible Lending” initiative, where the aim is to harmonise the support of borrower clients throughout the term of their loan, from the point where the loan is granted to its repayment, including during difficult periods, throughout the Group;
- ✓ adding to the excessive debt prevention system, by introducing two amicable negotiation platforms intended for vulnerable clients in 2013. The aim is to seek solutions for the gradual repayment of arrears, by favouring a route that enables a return to performing loan status rather than the disputed loan route as much as possible.

Continued support for business start-ups:

- ✓ The Group entered into a relationship with over 23,300 companies created within the past year in France in 2013.
- ✓ The Bank partners 149 local *Initiative France* platforms.

2. ROLLING OUT A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BANKING OFFER

- ✓ **The socially inclusive banking offer** enables clients to make payments to voluntary organisations. Thanks to three products, i.e. the Socially Inclusive Savings Service, Charitable Collection Cards and the *Filigrane* loyalty programme, over EUR 1.4 million was contributed in this way (70% by Societe Generale and 30% by clients) to 48 partner voluntary organisations, an increase of 9% compared with 2012.
- ✓ The Group is a major operator in the **micro-finance** sector, where it had granted loan authorisations amounting to over €80 million at the end of 2013. Outside France, Societe Generale works with 24 micro-finance institutions (MFIs). In France, the Group is a partner of *ADIE*, and also offers micro-loans that are supported via a partnership with the *Crésus* and *Restaurants du Cœur* voluntary organisations.
- ✓ Societe Generale is committed to **the development of “Positive Impact Finance”**: this is finance that has a positive impact on the environment, the basic needs of the population, and the development of less advanced countries, and offsets any potentially negative impacts in an appropriate manner. This approach has been developed as part of a working group formed with other financial institutions and with the French Corporate Societal Responsibility Observatory (ORSE). Societe Generale financed positive projects amounting to €600 million in 2013.

3. BOOSTING ITS RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYER INITIATIVE

This initiative is based on **promoting diversity** (diversity, internationalisation, equality of opportunity, and the employment of disabled people), and on **developing employees’ skills and employability**.

- ✓ The Group set up a “Diversity Committee” in late 2013, which consists of members of the Executive Committee and of the Management Committee. This Committee will monitor the improvement in the diversity and internationalisation of employee profiles between 2015 and 2018.
- ✓ An agreement on Job, Skills, and Employment Changes was signed with all the Trade Union Organisations in February 2013. This agreement enshrined the implementation of an employee dialogue on job changes and development, and the consequences for the

organisational structure. The agreement encouraged the setting up of a Forward-Looking Employment and Skills Management platform, and enabled the internal job mobility system to be strengthened. This progress, which is combined with the development of career paths, enables employees to develop skills that will be recognised throughout their careers.

4. EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND PURCHASES

Over the period between 2012 and 2015, the Group aims to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 26%¹ per building occupant, and to increase its energy-efficiency by 24%¹. To achieve this aim, the Group has introduced an internal “carbon tax” mechanism. An amount is gathered from the business lines every year depending on their carbon emissions, and the budget collected in this way enables the financing of internal environmental efficiency projects. In 2013, **28 internal initiatives** were rewarded in this way, and received **EUR 2.6 million** in total. **A new budget of EUR 3.2 million will be allocated in 2014.**

The Purchasing Department’s CSR initiative is rolled out in three areas: in the **economic** area, thanks to a strong commitment to SMEs, in the **social** area, by increasing recourse to the protected sector, and in the **environmental** area, by participating in efforts to reduce the Group’s carbon footprint. This initiative has been rewarded by the award of the **“Responsible Supplier Relations” certificate from the Inter-Company Mediation organisation.**

Accordingly, in 2013, **60% of the Group’s purchases in France** were sourced from **SMEs and ITEs**, around **1,000 suppliers** were assessed from a CSR standpoint, and **purchases amounting to EUR 4.7 million** were sourced from the protected sector.

5. REINFORCING ITS ROLE WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY

The Societe Generale Corporate Foundation for Social Inclusion is involved in promoting inclusion through employment in two areas: helping young people to enter the workforce, and combating illiteracy. In total, the Group dedicated over EUR 8 million to socially inclusive initiatives in 2013, if the Foundation’s initiatives and all the local initiatives are taken into account.

Societe Generale wants to go further in terms of its involvement in civil society, by encouraging employees to become involved via sponsorship, skills sponsorship, and socially inclusive initiatives etc. Among recent initiatives, we would mention the “Financial Education” project, where 70 employees were involved in a financial education project for young apprentices alongside the *Crésus* voluntary organisation.

Societe Generale

Societe Generale is one of the largest European financial services groups. Based on a diversified universal banking model, the Group combines financial solidity with a strategy of sustainable growth, and aims to be the reference for relationship banking, recognised on its markets, close to clients, chosen for the quality and commitment of its teams.

Societe Generale has been playing a vital role in the economy for 150 years. With more than 148,000 employees, based in 76 countries, we accompany 32 million clients throughout the world on a daily basis. Societe Generale’s teams offer advice and services to individual, corporate and institutional customers in three core businesses:

- **Retail banking in France** with the Societe Generale branch network, Credit du Nord and Boursorama, offering a comprehensive range of multichannel financial services on the leading edge of digital innovation;
- **International retail banking, financial services and insurance** with a presence in emerging economies and leading specialised businesses;
- **Corporate and investment banking, private banking, asset management and securities services**, with recognised expertise, top international rankings and integrated solutions.



Societe Generale is included in the main socially responsible investment indices: Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Europe), FSTE4Good (Global and Europe), Euronext Vigeo (Global, Europe, Eurozone and France), ESI Excellence (Europe) from Ethibel and 5 of the STOXX ESG Leaders indices.

For more information, you can follow us on twitter @societegenerale or visit our website www.societegenerale.com.

Societe Generale: 150 years

In 2014, Societe Generale Group celebrates its 150th anniversary with a focus on entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and team spirit. Founded by a group of industrialists and financiers, the bank's very name illustrated their ambition: "Société Générale pour favoriser le développement du commerce et de l'industrie en France" ("**Societe Generale to support the development of trade and industry in France**"), as written into the Imperial decree signed by Napoléon III on 4 May 1864.

Societe Generale has always served economic development, contributing to the financing of infrastructures that symbolised the modern world and of leading French groups. Societe Generale was among the first French banks to open branches in London and in Russia in the 1870s, before expanding into the Maghreb, New York and Africa and to set up operations in Central European countries.

Societe Generale has always been at the cutting edge of financial innovation, and takes strength from its origins to assert its banking vision for the future, reinvent its businesses to serve its clients and become the reference bank of the 21st century.