

NEWS RELEASE

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10th anniversary of “green bonds” celebrated in Luxembourg

The European Investment Bank (EIB), the world’s largest multilateral public bank and largest issuer of green bonds, today celebrated the 10th anniversary of the world’s first “Climate Awareness Bond” at the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, where the first “green bond” was launched in 2007.

EIB President **Werner Hoyer** highlighted the unique contribution of green bonds to accelerating private sector funding for climate related investment over the last decade: *“Green bonds are crucial for tackling a changing climate and accelerating support for climate-related investment. The commitment to fight against climate change shown in the past decade by a broad range of market participants has mobilised private sector support for sustainable investment and has transformed the funding solutions offered by capital markets. The EIB, the EU Bank, remains committed to mobilising private investors and financing projects to deliver on the SDG objectives and the Paris COP 21 climate agreement.”*

The momentum of increased dedicated support from institutional investors and unprecedented international cooperation to support projects that reduce emissions and protect against a changing climate was confirmed as demonstrating a clear focus to protect the planet. Looking ahead, further expansion of green bonds financing is expected to scale up private finance support for implementing the Paris climate agreement in the years ahead.

“The fight to mitigate climate change is a long-term transition project which requires a dedicated infrastructure for green financial instruments. As a green exchange we promote best market practices and provide transparency, accountability and comparability of green bonds. We were there for the 1st green bond, we were there for the 100th, we will be there for the thousandth. Congratulations to the EIB for leading the way!” added **Robert Scharfe**, CEO of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Continuous supply of green bond benchmark issuance, efforts to continually strengthen investor engagement through harmonized reporting, disclosure and impact assessment, and a broadening range of issuers were identified as clear evidence that green bonds are both established as a mature dedicated investment instrument and key to future increase of private sector climate finance.

Luxembourg Minister of Finance **Pierre Gramegna** said: *“Today we are looking back on an important milestone and a significant step forward in the global fight against climate change: The issuance of the first Green Bond by the EIB. Over the last years sustainable finance has gained real momentum and the Luxembourg financial centre has developed into an important hub for green finance initiatives.”*

The self-financing EIB is the world’s largest supranational bond issuer and issues green bonds, which finance a significant proportion of renewable energy and energy efficiency lending, alongside regular bonds. The EU Bank is the world’s largest multilateral financier of climate related investment and last year alone provided EUR 19 billion for climate action projects worldwide. In support of the Paris Agreement, EIB committed to deliver climate finance globally for around EUR 100 billion in the five year period to 2020.



Background information

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals. The first green bond was issued by the European Investment Bank, the Bank of the European Union, ten years ago and since then the EIB has issued more than EUR 18 billion of Climate Awareness Bonds in 11 different currencies. The EIB's Climate Awareness Bonds have financed investment in 160 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in 44 countries around the world.

The core business of the **Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE)** is listing: it is home to roughly 36,000 securities issued by entities from more than 100 countries. All the securities are available for trading on our markets: an EU-regulated BdL market and the exchange-regulated Euro MTF. We are also the first and, so far, the only exchange in the world to operate a platform dedicated entirely to green, social and sustainable securities. Launched in 2016, the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX) has become a meeting place for green-focused issuers and investors. Currently LGX displays securities worth EUR 54 billion, more than a half of all listed green bonds in the world. For more information visit www.bourse.lu.

Press contacts

EIB: Tim Smit, t.smit@eib.org, +352 691 286 423

LuxSE: Zuzanna Reda – Jakima, zrj@bourse.lu, +352 47 79 36 526