

Press Release

Paris, 19 April 2007

Société Générale acquires Banka Popullore in Albania

Société Générale announces the acquisition of 75% of the capital of Albania's Banka Popullore. The acquisition, signed on 18 April, is subject to the approval of the Albanian regulatory authorities.

Banka Popullore is a dynamic universal bank, founded in March 2004. Within 3 years, the bank created a significant network across Albania and attained a market share of 5%. Today, Banka Popullore offers services and products to 42,000 customers through a 30 branch network, and employs 280 persons. Its total assets reached 230 M€ at end 2006. Société Générale's know-how, technology, and international network will enable Banka Popullore to pursue its development.

The Albanian economy is performing well thanks to reforms launched a decade ago to open and liberalize its market economy. Since 2003, GDP growth has been around 6% p.a., while inflation is controlled at a low and stable rate around 3%. The country's banking system achieved very good performance in 2005, notably in the development of loans (+82%) and customer deposits (+16%), and enjoys strong prospects.

This acquisition is in line with the development strategy of Société Générale as one of the major players in universal banking in South Eastern Europe, where it has subsidiaries in Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia. With almost 1 million clients and 238 branches, this region will become the third largest franchise in Europe ex-France for Société Générale's International Retail Banking division, after the Czech Republic (Komerčni Banka) and Romania (BRD).

Société Générale

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs 120,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking & Financial Services: Société Générale serves more than 22,5 million individual customers worldwide.
- Global Investment Management & Services: Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 2 262 billion, December 2006) and under management (EUR 422 billion, December 2006).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Société Générale ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the five major socially-responsible investment indexes.

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