

## PlaNet Finance/Belgian Finance Club Conference



### Microfinance: a development tool or a profit-making device?

Monday 21st March 2011, from 9 am to 7.30 pm at the Brussels' Stock Exchange (La Bourse).

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#### Agenda

##### 1. Overview of the microfinance sector

Faced with a global population still as widely affected in absolute terms by poverty (2.6 billion people have less than \$2 per day to live, 1.4 billion with less than \$1.25 per day and 1 billion suffering from hunger), how can microfinance help?

What is the nature of the demand for microfinance? What are the needs of the poorest households?

Looking beyond preconceived ideas, what are its successes, potential drifts and prospects for the near future?

##### 1.1 Microfinance: a device that is being used more and more extensively, yet with notable differences depending on whether the country is in the North or the South.

- **Marc Bichler, Director for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg (confirmed)**

##### 1.2 The effects of a rapid, not always controlled growth

- **William Parienté, Solvay Institute (TBC)**

##### 1.3 Microfinance and Social Business: towards a new economic model?

- **Emmanuel de Lutz, head of microfinance, BNP Paribas (confirmed)**

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## 2. Where does microfinance fit within the financial sphere?

Since 2005, private assets have exceeded public funds in this sector.  
What are the different types of financing (in terms of assets? debt?)?  
What impact has the financial crisis had on this sector?  
What is the balance between profitability and the social mission?  
What distinguishes microfinance from traditional finance?

- **Moderator : Loïc De Cannière, Incofin (confirmed)**

### 2.1 How has the role of public backers of microfinance evolved?

- **Edvardas Bumsteinas, BEI (confirmed)**

### 2.2 The question of profitability for Investment Funds

- **Jean-Pierre Klumpp, Blue Orchard (confirmed)**

### 2.3 Microfinance in Europe

- **Birthe Bruhn Leon, European Investment Fund (TBC)**

## 3. Why evaluate the social performance of microfinance?

Starting from the beneficiaries - the micro-entrepreneurs - and targets - the promotion of profit-generating activities.  
It what ways can the results, as well as its impact be measured? Unpredictable? Temporary? Sustainable?

- **Moderator: Ging Ledesma Manager Social Performance, Oikocredit**

### 3.1 Evaluate social performance so as to improve the sector's transparency

- **Emmanuelle Javoy, Planet Rating (confirmed)**

### 3.2 Evaluate social performance so as to increase the financing for microfinance institutions

- **Eric De Keuleneer, Solvay Business School and Credal (confirmed)**

### 3.3 Evaluate social performance so as to improve the social impact on beneficiaries.

- **Cécile Lapenu, CERISE (confirmed)**

#### 4. Main weaknesses of the IMF, improvements?

There are a multitude of initiatives, instigated by the IMF, and 'pipelines' to popularise this activity. This raises questions as to:

- the size of the institutions
  - their adaptation to this activity
  - human resources and training
  - IT, Risk Centre etc.
  - the legal framework, sometimes absent and often inadequate: should regulation only be at national, regional or international level?
- **Moderator: Mathias Schmit (confirmed)**

##### 4.1 Control

- **Frank Streppel, Microfinance Fund Manager, Triodos (confirmed)**

##### 4.2 Human resources: The role of technical assistance

- **François Durollet, Managing Director of PlaNNet Finance (confirmed)**

##### 4.3 Risks centers: a tool to fight against microentrepreneurs indebtedness?

- **Sébastien Duquet, General Director PlaNIS responsibility S.A.S. (Confirmed)**

#### 5. Closing session (Jacques Attali)

**Keynote speaker: Jacques Attali**

**Discussion with Mark Eyskens (confirmed), moderated by Etienne Davignon (confirmed)**

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