



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Paris, 24 June 2013

## **Coface moves to Bois-Colombes, a new milestone in its history**

The Coface Group, a global market leader for credit insurance, is leaving La Défense to set up its headquarters in Bois-Colombes (a northwestern suburb of Paris). The 30,000 sq.m HQE<sup>1</sup> and BBC<sup>2</sup> certified building, with a 1,600 sq.m garden, will be welcoming the Paris Region's 1,300 staff from 17 June.

*"This is much more than a simple relocation for us. Our new head office is a strong symbol of change, reflecting a better experience in terms of both work and life in general within Coface. With a bright and open professional setting, we aim to encourage communication and transparency, two vital elements in our business. Our work environment is built around an exotic garden where the "multicultural" selection of plants is consistent with the international nature of our activities. It is with this spirit that we are embarking on a new phase in Coface's history, even more open, efficient and effective, serving businesses around the world",* explains Jean-Marc Pillu, Chief Executive Officer of the Coface Group.

### **Bois-Colombes, a strategic choice offering major potential**



The decision to move to the Bruyères district in Bois-Colombes, an upcoming service sector hub, was taken in 2010. With the lease on the building in La Défense coming to an end, Coface took this opportunity to locate to a new modern, comfortable head office perfectly aligned with its requirements and ambitions. This decision will also make it possible to bring the teams from La Défense and Rueil-Malmaison together on the same site.

Located approximately a hundred metres from the Bécon-les-Bruyères train station, the building has good public transport connections (two regional express train lines from St-Lazare Station, one from La Défense and another from Nanterre, as well as several bus lines), in addition to being easily accessible by car.

### **A new, more collaborative and efficient working concept**

Designed by the architects Chaix et Morel Associés, the seven-floor building integrates perfectly with the landscape thanks to its horseshoe layout. Internally, the open-space design,

1 High Quality Environmental standard

2 Low-energy building standard



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combined with numerous meeting rooms, will help build closer ties and foster more cooperation and communication, in line with the Group's commitment to transparency. To offer a peaceful work environment, the ceilings and walls have been chosen with a view to minimising any noise-related disturbances.

A vast patio-garden is made up of six beds, each devoted to plant species from a key region around the world, ensuring a perfect fit with the international identity of Coface, which is present in 66 countries. It was designed by urban architect Philippe Thébaud to be the focal point of the company's day-to-day life, located at the entrance to the restaurant, the cafeteria, the multimedia library and the auditorium.

### **Construction project driven by respect for the environment**

During each phase, this project has been guided by a desire to offer the Coface teams an innovative building and pleasant environment, with high environmental performance levels.

The environmentally-responsible technical infrastructure for this new head office reflects a genuine commitment by Coface to sustainable development: the building is NF HQE, BBC and BREEAM Europe Commercial<sup>3</sup> certified. As the control and reduction in energy consumption is vital for an environmentally responsible building, the new premises, designed to retain heat in the winter and cold in the summer, are externally insulated. The solar protection facilities fitted to each of the facades are also intended to minimise the use of air conditioning.

### **Coface's new address:**

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### **About Coface**

The Coface Group, a worldwide leader in credit insurance, offers companies around the globe solutions to protect them against the risk of financial defaults by their clients, both on the domestic market and for export. In 2012, the Group posted €1.6 billion in consolidated turnover. Its 4,400 staff in 66 countries provide a local service worldwide. Each quarter, Coface publishes its country risk assessments for 158 countries, based on its unique knowledge of companies' payment behaviour and on the expertise of its 350 underwriters located close to clients and their debtors.

In France, Coface manages public export guarantees on behalf of the French state.

Coface is a subsidiary of Natixis, the corporate, investment management and specialised financial services arm of the BPCE Group.

[www.coface.com](http://www.coface.com)

<sup>3</sup> Leading standard for sustainable construction with an evaluation method used to present a building's environmental performance