

Beirut, May 3, 2012

## **The Banker Magazine names Fransabank and Fransa Invest Bank for “The Banker – Deal of the Year 2012 Awards for the Middle East”**

We are proud to announce that Fransabank and Fransa Invest Bank were selected for 3 prestigious awards – One award for Fransabank and Two awards for Fransa Invest Bank - by the pre-eminent international magazine, the Banker, part of the Financial Times Group, for

**“The Banker – Deal of the Year 2012 Awards for the Middle East.”**

For the year 2012, The Banker Magazine selected one winning and one highly commended “Deal of the Year” for each of 10 categories across the Middle East region, which adds to the exclusivity of these awards.

**The Banker Award for “Deal of the Year 2012 - Loans - Middle East”** was granted to both **Fransabank** and **Fransa Invest Bank** for their participation among other banks in the financing of the acquisition of Saudi Oger share in Medgulf Group of Companies by Loufi El Zein.

**The Highly Commended Banker Award for “Deal of the Year 2012 – Bonds: Sovereigns, Supras and Agencies – Middle East”**, was granted to **Fransa Invest Bank** for its entry as Lead Manager in the Republic of Lebanon Voluntary Debt Exchange Offer for Eurobonds for USD 1.98 billion.

The Banker quote: “Congratulations on Behalf of the Banker Magazine and the Financial Times Group on the Lebanon \$1.98 bn LM (Lead Manager) being chosen as the Highly Commended Deal for “Deal of the Year – Bonds: Sovereigns, Supras and Agencies – Middle East” in addition to your involvement in the LFZ acquisition finance Medgulf Insurance \$400 m which was selected as the winning “Deal of the Year – Loans – Middle East”. It is a great pleasure to award you and the other lead participants in the deals these prestigious accolades.”

HE Mr. Adnan Kassar, Chairman of Fransabank Group commented: “We are very pleased with this acknowledgement of yet awarded winning performance for Fransabank and Fransa Invest Bank from ‘The Banker’. He added: “we, at Fransabank Group, thrive always to diversify our offerings that are very well placed to increase our contribution in the development of our economy and to further integrate our Group in the international business and finance communities.”

Head Office: Fransabank Center, Hamra Street - P.O.Box: 11-0393 Beirut, Lebanon

Fransabank sal: C.R. 25699 Beirut | Capital LBP 438.5 billion fully paid  
List of Banks No 1 | MOF # 3449  
Tel (961) 1 340180/8 | Fax (961) 1 354572

Fransa Invest Bank sal: C.R. 76808 Beirut | Capital LBP 15 billion fully paid  
List of Banks No 121 | MOF # 230034  
Tel: +961 1 745 978 / 9 / 80 - +961 1 350930 / 1 - Fax: +961 1 351 030

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### **Previous Awards Received**

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Fransabank was awarded in the previous years from the Banker:

It is worth noting that Fransabank was awarded in the previous years from the Banker:

- The 'Deal of the Year 2008 - Lebanon' award, after acquiring the highly coveted BLC Bank.
- The 'Deal of the Year - Highly Commended 2009', for issuing Series A Preferred Shares.

### **About Fransabank Group**

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Fransabank Group enjoy today the positioning of a leading Lebanese financial group that offers universal banking services through its 142 branches in 8 countries across the world, covering Lebanon, France, Algeria, Syria, Belarus, Cyprus, Libya and Sudan.

In Lebanon alone, Fransabank Group ranks first in terms of local branch network with 108 branches covering all the country, from corner to corner. This is in addition to a total of eleven Banking and Non-Banking Subsidiaries & Associates that are part of the Group, of which Fransabank SAL and Fransa Invest Bank SAL.

**End of News**

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#### **Attached:**

- 1 – Logo of "The Banker Award for "Deal of the Year 2012 - Loans - Middle East"
- 2 – Logo of "The Highly Commended Banker Award for "Deal of the Year 2012 – Bonds: Sovereigns, Supras and Agencies – Middle East"

#### **For Further Information, Kindly Contact:**

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