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## Financial crisis: government communication

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In these times of international financial crisis, the Belgian State quickly took the urgent measures that were necessary. These guarantee the protection of customers and savers of Belgian banks, the continuity of the activity of financial companies, the preservation of employment and the protection of economic life. By avoiding the bankruptcy of Fortis and Dexia, the State has also defended the interests of shareholders. We believe it is important to take stock of these measures.

### Your savings protected up to 100,000 euros

The government has decided to increase the amount of deposits guaranteed by the state from 20,000 to 100,000 euros. This guarantee covers the assets of clients of credit institutions, stockbroking firms and other investment firms governed by Belgian law. It may be extended to other institutions (in particular insurance companies or approved cooperatives) which request it for products similar to bank deposits, for example for certain products forming part of branch 21. This measure is scheduled for one year and may be extended.

Customers of foreign banks, such as Kaupthing Bank Luxembourg, benefit from the protection of the guarantee system in place in the country concerned. The Belgian government has, in this specific case, sent a letter to the Luxembourg government asking it to consider all the possibilities so that the many customers of the bank, including the thousands of Belgian customers, can recover their savings as soon as possible. .

### Ensuring the continuation of the activities of Dexia and Fortis

We had to save Dexia and Fortis. The situation of the two institutions at the time of the government's decision was very different. They therefore required different responses. In each of these cases, the number and origin of the partners also varied (foreign governments, Regions, etc.). The solutions retained, accompanied by the refinancing measures decided, make it possible to guarantee the viability of both Dexia and Fortis. The continuity of the activity of these banks constitutes the most effective protection of savings and employment.

### Strong guarantees for Belgian banks

The government has decided to set up a temporary guarantee plan aimed at facilitating Belgian banks' access to the interbank markets and with institutional counterparties. This measure is a strong signal of the Belgian State's commitment to guarantee the stability of the financial system as a whole. It has a direct impact on loans to individuals and businesses and stabilizes the country's economy. The government is also committed to strengthening the regulation of the financial sector and improving its transparency.

### Measures for Fortis Group shareholders.

Without government intervention, the Fortis share would no longer exist. However, the government wishes to take a measure in favor of small holders of Fortis shares. A fund will be created by royal decree. This fund will contain part of the capital gain and profits that the State will derive from its stake in BNP Paribas, intended for shareholders. The beneficiaries of this fund must be nationals of one of the Member States of the European Union or reside in Belgium. A maximum of 5,000 Fortis coupons per person will be taken into account for access to fund units. The fund will be distributed on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

### A message to Europe.

At the various European decision-making levels, the Belgian State supports any initiative likely to guarantee the stability of the financial system. These include the establishment of a European guarantee plan, but also European tools for regulation and coordinated reaction in the event of a crisis.

**We remain vigilant.**

The global financial crisis may not be over yet. The government undertakes to remain vigilant and to take appropriate measures if necessary. The government is thus helping to restore the climate of confidence.

Answers to concrete questions about the protection fund can be obtained on the website [www.fondsdeprotection.be](http://www.fondsdeprotection.be)  
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20081018234646/http://www.fondsdeprotection.be/>)