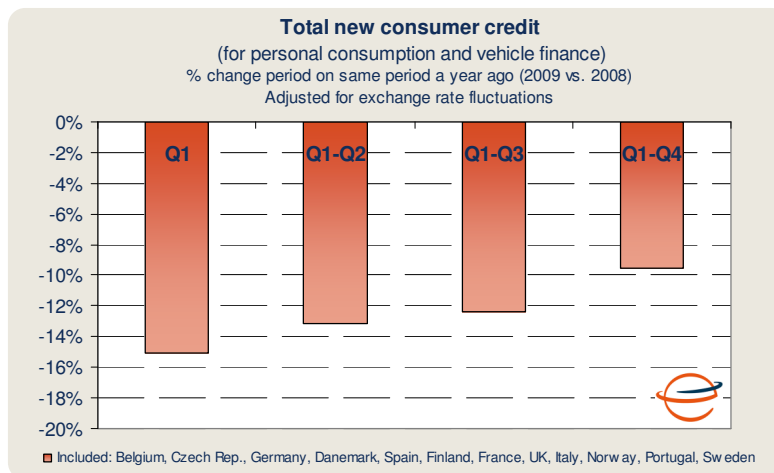


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eurofinas Announces Improvement in European Consumer Credit Market Figures for Q4 2009

BRUSSELS – 15 March 2010 – Eurofinas, the voice of specialised consumer credit providers at European level, has recently launched quarterly surveys of its members' new lending business to track developments on the European consumer credit markets.

The results of the survey for the fourth quarter of 2009 reveal that the market represented by the Eurofinas members reporting in the survey¹ underwent some moderation in the rate of contraction of new credit granted in the last quarter of the year. Eurofinas members' new consumer credit in 2009 was down by 9,5% compared to 2008, whereas the decrease over the first three quarters of the year was -12,4% when compared to the same period of the previous year².



Pedro Guijarro, Chairman of Eurofinas, commented that “consumer credit products for personal consumption suffered the most in 2009. Consumer car finance was also affected, but to a lesser extent. This is mostly due to the successful implementation of vehicle scrapping schemes in some countries.”

Tanguy van de Werve, Eurofinas Director General, added that “recent figures from official European sources indicate that consumer confidence in the EU, although still low, is improving. This is expected to have a favorable impact on consumer lending levels over the coming year. Nevertheless, now that many car scrapping schemes have expired, recovery in the consumer car lending sector may be more difficult.”

For further information about the surveys conducted by Eurofinas, please contact Anne Valette, Head of Communications.

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Countries represented by Eurofinas members reporting in the survey: BE, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, NO, PT, SE, UK

² *Figures reported are adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations*

About Eurofinas

Eurofinas, the European Federation of Finance House Associations, is the voice of the specialised consumer credit providers in the EU. As a Federation, Eurofinas brings together associations throughout Europe that represent finance houses, specialised banks, captive finance companies of car, equipment, etc. manufacturers and universal banks. The scope of products covered by Eurofinas members includes all forms of consumer credit products such as personal loans, linked credit, credit cards and store cards. Consumer credit facilitates access to assets and services as diverse as cars, studies, furniture, electronic appliances, etc. It is estimated that together Eurofinas members financed over 400 billion euros worth of new loans during 2008 with outstandings reaching 745 billion euros at the end of the year.