

CoP (Communication on Progress) 2008 for the Global Compact

Elan 2020 : a renewed strategy making sustainability and environmental performance one of Caisse des Dépôts' key priorities for the future.

Augustin de Romanet was appointed CEO of Caisse des Dépôts in March 2007.

In 2008, he renewed the institution's commitment to the Global Compact 10 principles.

Nine months after his arrival, Caisse des Dépôts (CDC) unveiled a new strategic action plan towards 2020.

Elan 2020 was designed in-house by 150 operational managers and executives, with the help of outside experts and observers, over a period of 4 months. It was formally approved by CDC's Supervisory Board as well as public authorities. Elan 2020 reaffirms Caisse des Dépôts' identity as a long term investor to serve the country's economic development and public interest. As the world faces increasing environmental risks, Caisse des Dépôts is developing innovative economic instruments to fight climate change and putting a new focus on the environmental impact of its investments and operations.

Within the framework of Elan 2020, Caisse des Dépôts is placing environmental performance as high on its agenda as financial and social performance, reflecting its missions and values over the years.

➤ Elan 2020 sets 4 priorities to contribute to the country's sustainable development:

(1) Housing and urban development

Finance and build 90 000 housing units every year starting in 2010 i.e. 40% more than today.

Renovate 18 000 housing units every year according to strict environmental quality criteria

Make environmental performance a value adding dimension of Caisse des Dépôts' contribution to social housing through its Prêts Energie Performance (cf. CoP 2007), offering a bonus to build and renovate social housing according to high energy performance criteria.

(2) Universities and the knowledge economy

Modernise French universities and accompany their transition towards financial autonomy: invest €10M, on 2008 budget, to develop initial financial engineering and construction recommendations ; on a regular basis, dedicate 20% of public interest investment on CDC own funds, corresponding to a €500M investment over a period of 3 years, in order to create sufficient leverage.

Include strict and systematic environmental and carbon performance criteria in Caisse des Dépôts' offer to universities, to take climate related challenges into account early on in the process and avoid useless expenses incurred by poor energy performance.

(3) SMEs to promote growth

Fund 1000 SMEs by 2010 to develop their exporting capacity (€1M over a period of 3 years).

Through Caisse des Dépôts' subsidiaries and partners, focus on SMEs with a growth potential and provide them with necessary support to innovate, improve their environmental performance and access international markets. A specific programme to accompany SMEs funded by France Investissement will be launched in December 2008.

Through venture capital and seed capital : extend and develop the funding of cleantechs and eco-innovation.

(4) Environment and sustainability

Invest in renewable energy to stimulate the expansion of the market, with a target to control 5% of French production of renewable energy by 2010 (10% by 2020).

Engage €30M in 2007, €50M in 2008, in 2009 and in 2010.

Participate in the country's contribution to reach the European target: achieve a 20% share of renewable energy within final energy consumption by 2020, according to the Climate and Energy package being negotiated at European level.

Pioneer financial operations in the field of biodiversity. CDC Biodiversité, a Caisse des Dépôts subsidiary with €15M in capital was launched in February 2008.

Implement responsible investment principles systematically. Make Caisse des Dépôts a reference in terms of environmental performance across operations including those mobilising CDC subsidiaries involved in public transport, infrastructure / engineering, tourism / leisure, as well as property.

Consolidate Caisse des Dépôts' leading position in the field of financial innovation to fight climate change.

Pursue action on a triple register:

- Launch, monitor and participate in international research projects dealing with the economy of climate
- Structure and organise market mechanisms towards increased reliability: registry (Seringas technology), brokerage (through CDC subsidiary Sagacarbon), international carbon trading (participation in Bluenext, first international platform recently launched with NYSE Euronext)
- Invest in carbon projects (eg. through post 2012 fund launched by EIB in April 2008)

According to the commitment made publicly in 2006 (cf. CoP 2006), reduce and offset GHG emissions from Caisse des Dépôts' office buildings and activity until 2012 incl. The target is to reduce emissions by an average 3% annually. 2006-2007 offsets have been dealt with.

➤ To supplement these 4 priorities, 3 lines of progress have been determined:

(1) Ensure the most efficient management of our public mandates

Caisse des Dépôts finances social housing through tax-exempt passbook savings, administers funds protected under French law, manages over 50 retirement savings schemes - all of which provide an original contribution to national solidarity. Caisse des Dépôts commits to develop the added value of its activities, to continuously improve the quality of their management and to increase the competitiveness of its products and services.

(2) Refer to transparent doctrines and reinforce governance

Transparency, neutrality and independence stand at the heart of Caisse des Dépôts' credit. The institution will produce its own doctrines detailing guidelines for action across the board.

These doctrines were drawn up by the end of the second quarter. They were presented to Caisse des Dépôts' Supervisory Board in July 2008 and will be made public by the end of 2008.

(3) Mobilise 60 000 employees to respond to society's most urgent needs

Caisse des Dépôts will develop training and increase the mobility of its employees from one structure to the next within the group. It will promote the value of assessment, efficiency and innovation. Its ability to anticipate and act on the European and international scene will be reinforced. In terms of communications, the priority will be to clarify the impact of its action on society.

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