

Press Release

— COVID-19

Massive commitment by banks in the face of the crisis
Crédit Mutuel is helping companies in difficulty to shore up their cash flow by offering a **“State-guaranteed loan”**

Paris, 24 March

As of 25 March, companies that have fallen into difficulty as a result of the health crisis can apply to their account manager for a cash loan of up to three months of turnover. This exceptional facility on offer by Crédit Mutuel at a very favourable rate will be guaranteed by the State.

The Crédit Mutuel group, its 2,100 local cooperative banks represented by 18 federations and one agricultural federation, as well as its subsidiaries, is fully on board with this measure to support all its self-employed professional and corporate customers at a local level to help them deal with this unprecedented economic standstill.

These loans will initially be for a period of one year. At the end of the first year, the customer may choose to repay the loan in full or pay it back in instalments over a period of up to five more years. The loans will be guaranteed by the State up to 90%.

The Crédit Mutuel group is rolling out this massive financial support plan for economic players with the help of its 4,000 professional advisers in France who are available by appointment to more than one in every three companies and one in every five entrepreneurs.

All economic sectors are taken into account: companies, retailers, the self-employed, farmers, independent professionals, micro-businesses, innovative companies, associations and foundations with an economic activity.

For SMEs and mid-market companies, loan approval has been fully delegated by the State to the bank. **Consistent with our decentralised organisation, our local cooperative banks and branches will themselves have significant approval powers so that they can respond as quickly as possible to their business customers with a proper understanding of their needs.** For large companies, the final decision will be made by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

This State-guaranteed loan comes in addition to the broader mechanism set up by banks for companies affected by the economic shock – in particular the six-month deferral of repayment deadlines without any additional costs or penalties, and the measures by the State to defer Urssaf and tax payments and to cover partial unemployment.

Like the rest of the banking community, the employees of the Crédit Mutuel group's networks are fully committed to supporting all our professional and corporate customers in this emergency situation.

For Nicolas Théry, Chairman of the Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel, *"These State-guaranteed loans give us effective leverage to support businesses and professionals. We will also be on hand within all of the Crédit Mutuel local cooperative banks throughout France to serve our professional customers. I would like to pay tribute to all our employees, in particular our customer advisers, for their dedication and commitment in this very difficult environment."*

For Pierre-Edouard Batard, CEO of the Confédération Nationale du Crédit Mutuel, *"Our teams have worked tirelessly to be able to offer this new product in just a few days. As of Wednesday, we will have more than 4,000 specialist advisers ready with all the necessary information for our professional customers to be able to rapidly draw down these loans, which for many are vital to the continuity of their activities."*

Find out more about Crédit Mutuel by clicking [here](#) or find us on:



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