**Brussels, 2 November 2021**

Press release

**AXEPTA BNP PARIBAS ANNOUNCES THE CLOSING OF THE ACQUISITION OF INGENICO'S IN-STORE ACTIVITIES IN BELGIUM**

***Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux, a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas Fortis, and Worldline announced the closing of the acquisition of the card payment processing activities (acquiring) in Belgium and Luxembourg, after obtaining approval from the relevant regulatory and anti-trust authorities. This acquisition makes Axepta the number two payment services provider in Belgium.***

Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux NV/SA, a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas Fortis, and Worldline have received approval from the European Commission and the National Bank of Belgium for the takeover of part of Ingenico’s in-store activities in Belgium and Worldline’s in-store activities in Luxembourg.

The acquisition only concerns the acquiring activities (card payment processing) and terminals of Ingenico In-store on the Belgian and Luxembourg markets, as well as the contracts and data of approximately 16,000 merchants, commercial partnerships (sale of contracts) and the integration of Ingenico In-store staff.

The acquisition of these activities is the result of a decision from the European Commission under the EU Merger Regulation, following the acquisition of Ingenico by Worldline last year.

“*We welcome all the new merchants who will soon be joining our group*,” says Stijn Cloet, CEO of Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux. “*Former Ingenico and Worldline business customers in Belgium and Luxembourg will continue to benefit from high-quality innovative services, varied and integrated 'all-in-one' solutions and independent payment terminals that enhance the customer and shopping experience. Those customers affected by the takeover will be contacted by Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux personally*.”

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**Press contacts:**

**Ms. Hilde Junius** | Press Officer
+32 (0)2 565 47 37 - +32 (0)478 88 29 60
hilde.junius@bnpparibasfortis.com

**Mr. Valéry Halloy** | Press Officer
+32 (0)2 565 46 50 - +32 (0)475 78 80 97
valery.halloy@bnpparibasfortis.com

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***Axepta BNP Paribas*** *(*[*www.axepta.be*](http://www.axepta.be)*) offers acquiring solutions for accepting electronic payments of public institutions, liberal professions, SMEs and large enterprises. With its wide range of payment terminals, e-commerce and omnichannel solutions, Axepta meets the needs and the situation of each entrepreneur. Axepta is recognised as a payment institution by the National Bank of Belgium and is an authorised acquirer for processing Bancontact, Visa and MasterCard transactions. Thanks to Axepta's transparent approach, receiving electronic payments becomes an easy and clear experience for the merchant. No hidden costs, simple integrations and transparent pricing: this is how Axepta distinguishes itself within today's complex payment landscape in Belgium and Luxembourg. Thanks to the synergy with BNP Paribas Fortis' sales channels, Axepta succeeds in reaching its target group efficiently with an all-in-one solution.*

***BNP Paribas Fortis*** *(*[*www.bnpparibasfortis.com*](http://www.bnpparibasfortis.com)*) offers the Belgian market a comprehensive range of financial services for private individuals, the self-employed, professionals, companies and public organisations. In the insurance sector, BNP Paribas Fortis works closely, as a tied agent, with Belgian market leader AG Insurance. At international level, the Bank also provides high-net-worth individuals, large corporations and public and financial institutions with customised solutions, for which it is able to draw on the know-how and international network of the BNP Paribas Group.*

***BNP Paribas*** *(*[***www.bnpparibas.com***](http://www.bnpparibas.com)*) is a leading bank in Europe with an international reach. It operates in 68 countries and has more than 193,000 employees, including nearly 148,000 in Europe. The Group has key positions in its three main activities: Domestic Markets and International Financial Services (whose retail-banking networks and financial services are covered by Retail Banking & Services) and Corporate & Institutional Banking, which serves two client franchises: corporate clients and institutional investors. The Group helps all its clients (individuals, community associations, entrepreneurs, SMEs, corporates and institutional clients) to realise their projects through solutions spanning financing, investment, savings and protection insurance. In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the European leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail-banking model in Mediterranean countries, in Turkey, in Eastern Europe and a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Institutional Banking and International Financial Services activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas as well as a solid and fast-growing business in Asia-Pacific.*

***Axepta BNP Paribas (***[***www.axepta.be***](http://www.axepta.be)***) XXXXXXXX***

***BNP Paribas Fortis*** *(*[*www.bnpparibasfortis.com*](http://www.bnpparibasfortis.com)*) commercialise sur le marché belge un éventail complet de services financiers auprès des particuliers, indépendants, titulaires de professions libérales, entreprises et organisations publiques. Dans le secteur des assurances, BNP Paribas Fortis opère en étroite collaboration, en tant qu’agent d’assurance lié, avec AG Insurance, leader du marché belge. Au niveau international, la banque propose des solutions sur mesure aux particuliers fortunés, aux grandes entreprises et aux institutions publiques et financières, en s'appuyant sur la compétence et le réseau international de BNP Paribas.*

***BNP Paribas*** *(*[*www.bnpparibas.com*](http://www.bnpparibas.com)*) est une banque de premier plan en Europe avec un rayonnement international. Elle est présente dans 68 pays, avec plus de 193 000 collaborateurs, dont plus de 148 000 en Europe. Le Groupe détient des positions clés dans ses trois grands domaines d'activité : Domestic Markets et International Financial Services, dont les réseaux de banques de détail et les services financiers sont regroupés dans Retail Banking & Services, et Corporate & Institutional Banking, centré sur les clientèles Entreprises et Institutionnels. Le Groupe accompagne l’ensemble de ses clients (particuliers, associations, entrepreneurs, PME, grandes entreprises et institutionnels) pour les aider à réaliser leurs projets en leur proposant des services de financement, d’investissement, d’épargne et d’assurance protection. En Europe, le Groupe a quatre marchés domestiques (la Belgique, la France, l'Italie et le Luxembourg) et BNP Paribas Personal Finance est numéro un du crédit aux particuliers en Europe. BNP Paribas développe également son modèle intégré de banque de détail dans les pays du bassin méditerranéen, en Turquie, en Europe de l’Est et a un réseau important dans l'Ouest des Etats-Unis. Dans ses activités Corporate & Institutional Banking et International Financial Services, BNP Paribas bénéficie d'un leadership en Europe, d'une forte présence dans les Amérique du Nord et du Sud, ainsi que d'un dispositif solide et en forte croissance en Asie-Pacifique.*