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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Bucharest, 23 May 2013

## **EXCELLENT SME CERTIFICATE - THE FIRST ROMANIAN TOOL THAT CERTIFIES PERFORMANCE, OFFERED BY THE BUCHAREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (CCIB) WITH COFACE ROMANIA**

CCIB and Coface launch for the first time in Romania a tool that rewards SMEs' performance, in terms of commercial risk and safe businesses. Excellent SME was officially launched yesterday at a press conference held by PhD Sorin Dumitriu, President of CCIB and Constantin Coman, CEO of Coface Romania. The event was attended by journalists, economic advisers, alongside representatives of different embassies in Romania, such as Hungary, Greece, and Poland, SMEs managers, members and non-members of CCIB, who have expressed their interest regarding the Excellent SME certification.



Excellent SME Certificate is issued by the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry, after Coface's confirmation regarding the latest company's financial assessment. This report certifies the company's stability in terms of its financial statements, debts to the state budget, payment incidents and its legal situation. CCIB members receive a 33% discount applied to the standard rate charged by COFACE.

*"This special partnership between CCIB - an organization with over 145 years of tradition in representing and supporting the business environment - and COFACE - one of the benchmarks within credit risk management services - resulted in a product that will help companies to develop in a sustainable way due to reduced business risks of their business partners."*, says PhD Sorin Dumitriu, President of CCIB.

A company's positive situation is certified through a specific logo displayed on its website, by using the licensed *SafeSigned™* web technology that prevents the website logos and certificates from being copied to another, non-authorized website, by creating a web page on the *SafeSigned* servers for the companies that do not yet have their own pages.

*"The main benefits brought by Excellent SME Certificate to the Romanian business environment are increasing trust between companies, so much needed nowadays and rewarding the companies that manage to achieve performance in this unstable economic period, results even more worthy of appreciation."*, says Constantin Coman, CEO of Coface Romania.

The general presentation of the product may be accessed on the following website: [www.ccib.ro/ExcellentSMERomania](http://www.ccib.ro/ExcellentSMERomania).



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#### **About CCIB**

With a tradition of 145 years in business representation and partnerships development with the local authorities, CCIB also enjoys a wide international recognition by working with 70 similar organizations abroad.

The Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry offers to its members and to the business community real support within outstanding services, adapted to the current market. The Chamber provides to Romanian and foreign companies different services such as: specialized consultancy services, start-up for companies, branches, subsidiaries, personalized service to promote products and services nation and worldwide, mediation and arbitration services. According to CCIB membership status, its companies benefit from a range of facilities.

[www.ccib.ro](http://www.ccib.ro)

#### **About Coface**

The Coface Group, a worldwide leader in credit insurance, offers companies around the globe solutions to protect them against the risk of financial default of their clients, both on the domestic market and for export. In 2012, the Group posted a consolidated turnover of 1.6 BEUR. 4,400 staff in 66 countries provides a local service worldwide. Each quarter, Coface publishes its assessments of country risk for 158 countries, based on its unique knowledge of companies' payment behavior and on the expertise of its 350 underwriters located close to clients and their debtors.

In France, Coface manages export public guarantees on behalf of the French state.

Coface is a subsidiary of Natixis, corporate, investment management and specialized financial services arm of Groupe BPCE.

[www.coface.com](http://www.coface.com)