

Press release
Paris, July 6th, 2012

PlaNet Finance launches the LH Forum in Le Havre on 13 & 14 September 2012, under the distinguished patronage of French President François Hollande

France's first major international forum dedicated to a positive and responsible economy

The PlaNet Finance Group, with support from the City of Le Havre, will organize the LH Forum on 13 & 14 September, 2012. Part of a larger Movement, the Movement for a Positive and Responsible Economy, this forum is both the first and only major conference to be held on this theme. Its goal is to bring together more than 500 prestigious, international participants — recognized experts, business decision makers, NGOs, and world leaders in the academic, political sphere as well as trade union representatives — to discuss the creation of a more virtuous, balanced and fair economy, one that places human values at the heart of the productive system.

Towards a positive and responsible economy

Since our global economic system has been called into question, it is essential to propose a new and different idea of the economy, an economy that strives for more than simply maximising profits. One of the LH Forum's main aims is to raise greater public awareness about innovative initiatives taken by economic, financial, institutional and academic leaders who have already implemented projects and structures on behalf of society and individuals. It is with this conviction, and on the occasion of the LH Forum, that PlaNet Finance — the first global microfinance organisation, co-founded by Jacques Attali and Arnaud Ventura — will launch the **Movement for a positive and responsible economy: an economy that serves society, individuals and their projects, with respect to the environment.**

An exceptional forum

The LH Forum, under the distinguished patronage of French President François Hollande, aims to be a **global event for a positive and responsible economy.** To give this new economic model the high media exposure and strategic profile that it deserves, the LH Forum will bring together economic leaders, decision makers and VIPs for a 2-day conference on September 13 & 14, 2012 **to exchange, share and design recommendations for action, and to define together the next steps to implement a positive and responsible economy.**

Positive and Responsible Economy Movement: key events

Starting in September 2012, the **Positive and Responsible Economy Movement** will be centred around several dimensions that embody the philosophy of the positive economy:

- **LH Forum: a two day conference with a unique programme based on a series of short, high-impact, twenty minute interventions by high-profile participants** — including **John Bird** (Founder, Big Issue), **Arnaud Mourot** (CEO, Ashoka Europe), **Gérard Mestrallet** (Chairman & CEO, GDF Suez), **Bernard Lietaer** (Belgian economist), **François Chérèque** (General Secretary, CFTD), **Henri Lachmann** (Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Schneider Electric), **Jeremy Black** (Founder & CEO, Sambazon), **Douglas Riboud and Justin Guilbert** (Founders, Harmless Harvest), **Jean-Louis Etienne** (explorer), **Sebastiao Salgado** (artist photographer), **João Proença** (Secretary General, UGT-Portugal), all of whom are key players in the emergence of a new economic model. Their presentations will be followed by debates with opponents, notably representatives of NGOs.

- **A photo exhibition: a world tour of the positive and responsible economy in pictures**
As part of the LH Forum and the launch of the Movement for a positive economy, the “**Inside Out**” project, initiated by the artist JR, will take to the streets of Le Havre with portraits of men and women — players in the positive economy worldwide.
- **An international competition: the Movement for a positive economy will invite international universities and prestigious schools to participate in an international competition**
Students, who are the future decision makers and players in a positive and responsible economy — are invited to participate in an international competition that will present awards for concrete, innovative and sustainable projects.
- **Citizen debates:** alongside the LF Forum, which aims to promote exchanges between professionals, practitioners and opinion leaders, the City of Le Havre will select a number of symbolic public spaces as venues for meetings and debates with the inhabitants of Le Havre region, representatives of civil society and figures from the positive and responsible economy.

Le Havre, host to the positive economy and the LH Forum

Le Havre has always succeeded in meeting historical challenges. Foremost was the city’s reconstruction, crowned in 2005 when its architecture was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next came the challenge of industrial transformation, with the shift of its core business towards the buoyant renewable energies sector, notably with the upcoming installation of an offshore wind farming sector.

Both France’s leading port for foreign trade and a multimodal platform at the cross roads of western Europe’s major communications channels, Le Havre’s dynamic momentum is likewise exemplified by its key role in numerous large-scale projects: Grand Paris, which crowns Le Havre as the capital’s port; the future Paris - Rouen - Le Havre high-speed train line; the architectural revival of the downtown area; as well as major artistic and cultural projects.

Le Havre is a symbolic, vivacious area. Its history genuinely reflects the success of changes brought about by a common desire to move society forward.

Edouard Philippe, the current mayor, wanted to bring a sustainable perspective to the city, by making Le Havre basin a privileged host for initiatives and ideas driven by a new vision of finance, society and values.

At a time when the economy must reinvent itself, Le Havre appears quite obviously the host of choice for the first edition of the LH Forum, which will be held **under the distinguished patronage of French President François Hollande.**

About the PlaNet Finance Group

PlaNet Finance is one of the positive, responsible economy’s global leaders. For nearly fifteen years, it has worked to help poor populations gain access to financial services, and so improve their living conditions in a sustainable way by integrating them into the economic system. The PlaNet Finance group contributes to the development of the microfinance sector by implementing specific products and services that address the needs of people who are suffering due to their exclusion from the system. PlaNet Finance operates not only in the developing countries, but also in the French suburbs. With an international presence in more than 80 countries, the PlaNet Finance group is now recognised as a major contender in the fight against poverty. It was founded in 1998 by Jacques Attali and Arnaud Ventura.

www.planetfinancegroup.org

www.lh-forum.com

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