**Brussels, 11 May 2021**

Press release

**AXEPTA BNP PARIBAS ACQUIRES PART OF INGENICO’S IN-STORE BUSINESS IN BELGIUM**

***Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux, a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas Fortis, and Worldline have signed an agreement under which Axepta will acquire merchant acquiring business in Belgium and Luxembourg. The acquisition will make Axepta the second-largest payment service provider in Belgium.***

Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux NV/SA, a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas Fortis, and Worldline have signed an agreement under which Axepta will acquire part of Ingenico’s in-store business in Belgium and Worldline’ business in Luxembourg. The agreement, which is subject to approval by the European Commission and Belgian National Bank, relates only to Ingenico’s merchant acquiring (card payment processing) business and terminals in Belgium and Luxembourg. The agreement covers the contracts and data of around 16,000 merchants, contracts with commercial partners and the transfer of staff members concerned from Ingenico.

Ingenico’s disposal of part of its Belgium business is the result of a decision by the European Commission based on the European Union merger regulation, following Worldline’s acquisition of Ingenico last year.

In a rapidly changing payment services industry, the acquisition of these activities meets Axepta’s aim of increasing its presence in merchant acquiring in Belgium and Luxembourg – two of its domestic markets – and of freshening up the sector by offering innovative, high-performance and competitive services to public- and private-sector companies, retailers and independent professionals.

**An agile and innovative acquirer for merchants of all sizes**

In 2014, BNP Paribas Fortis started its merchant acquiring business in Belgium by marketing the acquiring services of SIX Payment Services. In recent years, increasing numbers of business clients, both large and small, have been benefiting from its payment systems solutions, and particularly from the simplicity and reliability they offer. To strengthen its acquiring bank business model and expand its product range, it founded Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux in 2019.

*“With Axepta’s all-in-one integrated solutions, BNP Paribas Fortis is the only main bank in Belgium to offer the country’s retailers a comprehensive range of payment services that are flexible, transparent and secure,”* said Michael Anseeuw, General Manager, Retail Banking at BNP Paribas Fortis. *“By combining full coverage of the payments chain with the international expertise of the BNP Paribas Group, BNP Paribas Fortis and Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux are setting the benchmark for merchants.”*

*“Today, almost 80% of a B2C merchant’s revenue is generated by means of card transactions,”* added Stijn Cloet, CEO of Axepta BNP Paribas Benelux*. “To help our merchants achieve their growth ambitions and implement their digital transformation, Axepta offers a wide range of easily integrated and affordable solutions. This acquisition will give more than 30,000 professional clients access to high-quality, innovative services as well as independent payment terminals, thereby enhancing the customer purchasing experience.”*

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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.*