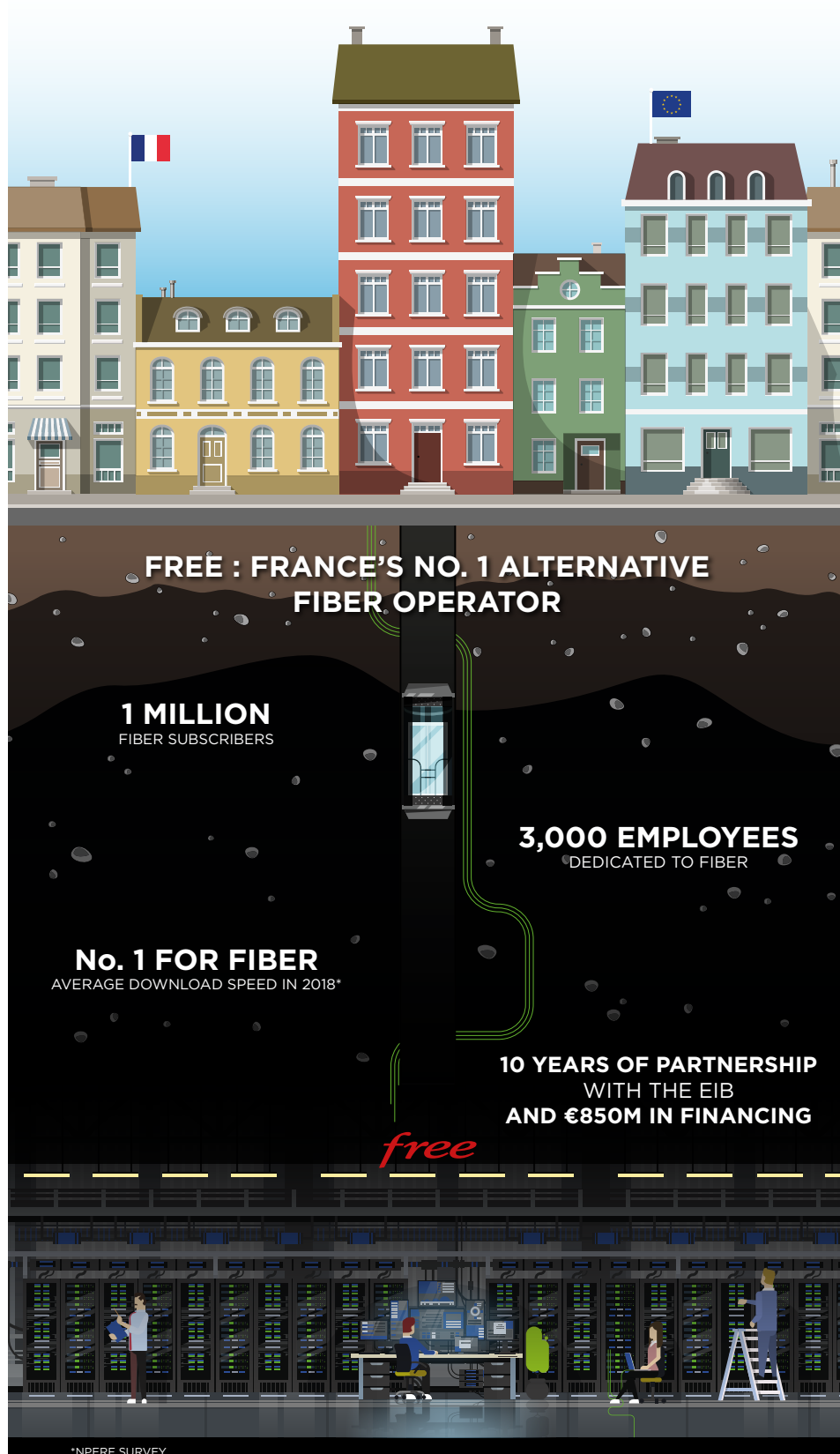


PRESS RELEASE

Paris, March 4, 2019

## THE EIB AND ILIAD CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND SIGN A NEW €300 MILLION FINANCING AGREEMENT TO ACCELERATE THE ROLLOUT OF FIBER ACROSS FRANCE



Thomas Reynaud, Iliad Group's Chief Executive Officer, and Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) – the bank of the European Union – today celebrated 10 years of partnership by setting up a new €300 million loan, supported by the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe (the "Juncker Plan"), to help expand Iliad's fiber network in France.

The financing agreement was signed today 25 meters underground, in an old nuclear bunker transformed into a data center by Iliad, symbolizing both the Group's expertise and Europe's sovereign data future.

This agreement cements Iliad's position as France's number one alternative fiber operator. With 3,000 employees dedicated to its fiber rollout, the Group is working on a daily basis to help bring fiber to the whole of France, including through Public Initiative Networks (PINs) for rural and sparsely populated areas. Iliad has over one million fiber subscribers, with 10 million connectible sockets in more than 90 départements, and it is standing by its objective of having 20 million fiber-connectible sockets by end-2022.

The new loan from the EIB – which brings Iliad's total amount of EIB financing to €850 million since 2009 – demonstrates the Bank's intention to continue to partner the Group in deploying its fiber network across the whole of France.

Commenting on the agreement, Ambroise Fayolle, Vice-President of the EIB, said *"The continuation of our partnership with the Iliad Group is a clear illustration of the European Union Bank's commitment to supporting innovation and the digital society as well as to ensuring that ultra-fast broadband is available in all regions. Helping extend the reach of ultra-fast broadband constitutes a vital support provided by Europe to businesses and residents located in rural and sparsely populated areas."*

Pierre Moscovici – the European Commissioner responsible for economic and financial affairs, taxation and customs – said *"I'm delighted with this agreement, which has been signed within the scope of the Juncker Plan and is intended to provide support to one of France's fiber operators. It will contribute to advancing digital deployment in France, therefore helping to bridge the digital divide in our regions"*.

Thomas Reynaud, Iliad Group's Chief Executive Officer, said "We would like to thank the EIB for its support over the past ten years, which has enabled Iliad to rise to the challenge of deploying fiber across France and to confirm our position as the country's number one alternative fiber operator."

## About the Investment Plan for Europe

The Investment Plan for Europe, known as the Juncker Plan, was launched in November 2014 to counter the trend of declining investment in infrastructure and put Europe on the path of financial recovery. Thanks to its innovative approach - whereby the EU allocates a guaranteed budget to the EIB - the Plan has unlocked substantial amounts of public and private funds and is continuing to do so, for investments in strategic sectors of the European economy.

The Juncker Plan has already generated some €380 billion in investments, including around €62 billion in France, and has provided support to 842,000 businesses across Europe.

## About the European Investment Bank

Owned by the European Union Member States, the European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union (EU), financing projects that promote European economic development and integration. In 2018, the EIB devoted €7 billion in new financing to support projects in key sectors of the French economy such as developing ultra-fast broadband, training young people, partnering businesses and innovative ideas, modernizing infrastructure and advancing energy transition.

See [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org) for further information

Follow the EIB on Twitter @eib

France factsheet 2018: <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/publications/all/the-eib-group-in-france-in-2018.htm>

## About Iliad

Iliad is the parent company of Free, the inventor of the Freebox, the first multiservice box on ADSL. Free is behind numerous innovations in the Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband access segment. Since January 2012, Free has brought mobile phone usage within everyone's reach with straightforward offerings at very attractive prices. Free has 20 million subscribers (6.5 million Broadband and Ultra-Fast Broadband subscribers and 13.5 million mobile subscribers at September 30, 2018). On May 29, 2018, the Iliad Group launched its mobile business in Italy under the Iliad brand, becoming the country's fourth mobile network operator, and had over 2.23 million subscribers at September 30, 2018.

[www.iliad.fr](http://www.iliad.fr)

**Twitter:** @Groupelliad

**Exchange:** Euronext Paris

**Ticker symbol:** ILD

**FTSE classification:** 974 Internet

**Market place:** Eurolist A of Euronext Paris (SRD)

**ISIN:** FR0004035913

**Member of Euro Stoxx, SBF 120, CAC Mid 100**

## Press contacts:

**EIB:** Anne-Laure Gaffuri: +352 437 983 689 - GSM: +352 691 284 679 - [a.gaffuri@eib.org](mailto:a.gaffuri@eib.org)

Cyrille Lachèvre: +352 621 36 19 48 - [c.lachevre@ext.eib.org](mailto:c.lachevre@ext.eib.org)

**Iliad:** Isabelle Audap: +33 1 73 50 27 22 - [presse@iliad.fr](mailto:presse@iliad.fr)

*Free ranked no. 1 in 2018 for average internet download speeds on fiber in Metropolitan France in the survey published on January 10, 2019 by the independent firm nPerf (see [nPerf.com](http://nPerf.com) for the full survey and a description of the survey methods used). Average taken from 747,270 speed tests carried out on FTTH networks between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.*