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## **Press release**

### ***Seminar on 25 March in Abidjan – Ivory Coast***

## **V.bank, a Viveo group solution – the technological answer to new challenges facing West African banks.**

*Paris, 10 March 2008 - The banks of the West African Monetary and Economic Union (WAEMU) are currently aiming to become pan-African financial establishments. To succeed, they are concentrating on three principal levers: strengthening their equity, opening to investors and shareholders and totally restructuring their management by use of new tools. The same applies to Ivory Coast banks, a powerful financial force given a hard ride following a troubled period, that are looking to modernize so as to boost their development and take on new challenges. The **Viveo** group, a leading player in information technology and banking consultancy, is joining the debate over the modernisation of the Ivory Coast banking sector, by organizing a seminar on the 25<sup>th</sup> March from 9am to 1pm at the Ibis Plateau Hotel in Abidjan, on the theme “V.bank at the heart of the strategy and productivity of financial establishments”.*

At the seminar, the Viveo group will present **V.bank, the global banking software reference of the French market and a real alternative to solutions recently declared obsolete by the WAEMU.** This integrated banking system stands out for the **high standard of its functions, unequalled to date, and its innovative technological approach.** Due to its unmatched functional cover and the latest technology, V.bank responds to the **major challenges of Ivory Coast banks to reduce their operating costs, rapidly create new products, improve production security and quality and offer their customers a consistent range of services.** V.bank assures that Ivory Coast banks control and optimize all aspects of their activity and, in particular, relations with their customers. As well as presenting its tropicalized software package, the Viveo group will focus on its local partner, **Roxsystems Technologies, specialized in the externalisation of information systems and the outsourcing of financial establishments in the CBWAS zone.**

Philippe LAZIER, the Africa Sales Director of the Viveo group, concludes “*The Ivory Coast is a prosperous country currently undergoing economic renewal and has the most highly developed banking sector in the CBWAS zone. It therefore seemed natural to start our development within this geographic area and this French-speaking country, by creating local partnerships, holding special events and, in particular, by getting involved with micro-finance institutions. This event demonstrates our desire to be an influential force in French-speaking Africa and, in particular, in the Ivory Coast*”.

**About the Viveo group**

*A strategic partner of banks and financial establishments, the Viveo group has developed a comprehensive and modular range of software and services that respond to all their operational, technological or regulatory issues. It is currently positioned as the only European player, combining consulting and publishing activities, able to cover the end to end aspects of a banking project. Its ambitious R & D policy (20 000 man days per year since 2000) enables it to offer the most accomplished range of banking software on the market in terms of technology (Service Orientated Architecture “SOA”), business performance and the tropicalisation of aspects specific to Africa. Bolstered by experience gained from over 25 years in the Banking world, the Viveo group currently has over 700 customers in more than 30 countries.*