

**THE MILESTONE OF 1 BILLION ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS IN BELGIUM  
WAS REACHED ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2006**

**Brussels, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006** — Armed with their debit cards, Belgians have set a new record on December 16<sup>th</sup>. One week before Christmas, Banksys, the Belgian electronic payment services provider, recorded a yearly total of more than one billion transactions, for the first time in our country's history.

Paying by card has become a standard practice for Belgians over the last few years. At certain periods like Christmas, New Year or during the winter sales, shoppers rely more and more on their debit cards and fast electronic payment system to pay for their holiday purchases.

It was therefore quite logical to expect the historic record of 1 billion transactions to be broken at this time of year, and precisely one week before Christmas, Banksys recorded its billionth electronic transaction of 2006. One billion transactions, covering all payments and cash withdrawals made using a card!

**Forecasts for 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

This year, Belgium is highly likely to continue the tradition of setting new records with a daily forecast of more than 4 million transactions for 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A forecast, which will shatter the old record of 3.9 million transactions achieved on 1<sup>st</sup> July during the summer sales.

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