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Barclays in France completes the acquisition of ING Ferri and ING Private Banking and concludes integration of both businesses

Immediately following completion 30,000 clients with €2.7bn of assets under management were successfully migrated to Barclays France's operating platforms and the business has now been fully operational since 4 July 2005. ING Ferri's 13 branches and St. Honoré private banking office are now being rebranded to Barclays and the former-ING clients will now enjoy access to the full range of Barclays products and services.

The successful conclusion of the transaction is further evidence of the Barclays Group's ambitions to grow its international businesses. Barclays in France now has a business of 140,000 clients with over €10bn assets under management and over 50 branches

Barclays Bank PLC ("Barclays") confirms that the acquisition of the wealth businesses of ING Securities Bank (France), consisting of ING Ferri and ING Private Banking was completed on 1 July 2005.

About Barclays

Barclays PLC is one of the world's largest global financial services providers primarily offering banking, investment banking and investment management services. Present in over 60 countries, Barclays is a leading provider of global services to over 20 million customers and employs more than 110,500 people worldwide.

With over 300 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays Plc has six major divisions:

- UK Banking, delivers banking products and services to over 14 million personal customers and 762,000 businesses in the UK.
- Barclaycard, is one of the largest global credit card companies with 14.9 million credit card customers around the world.
- Barclays Capital, is a leading global investment bank which provides large corporate, institutional and government clients with solutions to their financing and risk management needs.
- Barclays Global Investors, is one of the world's largest asset managers and a leading provider of investment management products and services.
 - Barclays Wealth Management has over £74 billion of customer funds under management
- International Retail and Commercial Banking -

Provides a range of banking services, including current accounts, savings, investments, mortgages and loans, as well as services to corporate customers across Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, Africa and the Middle East. Barclays operates over 800 international branches under its own name. It is also responsible for Barclays stake in FirstCaribbean International Bank and Barclays majority stake in Absa, South Africa's largest retail bank, with over seven million customers. Also see the Absa website www.absa.co.za.

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