



GROUPEMENT DES CARTES BANCAIRES "CB"

Paris, 4th July 2005

First week of summer sales, A record number of CB card payments: 174 million

As is the case each year, the beginning of the summer sales has resulted in a new record being set for the number of payments by CB bankcard. The past 7 days, from Monday 27th June to Sunday 3rd July, CB bankcard holders made intensive use of their cards, with **almost 174 million payments** by CB bankcard, that is almost 10% more than in an average week. The **Saturday alone accounted for around 32 million payments**.

In the know

34 million: the previous record number of CB card payments in a single day was set on Saturday, 18th December 2004, just before Christmas.

Practical tips on the eve of the summer holidays...

The bankcard is the most practical, the most universal and the safest method of payment. To use it with the greatest of ease, follow these tips as you prepare to go on holidays, whether you are planning to stay in France or to travel abroad.

Before travelling in France or abroad

- Reread your contract or consult your bank to check your authorised level of spending with your bankcard either for payments or withdrawals. You can have the limit changed for this period while away from home. It's a fact that you are liable to spend more when away from home. Try and predict the amount you will need so that you are not caught short or have to forego that last minute purchase.
- Find out about assistance and insurance contracts linked to your card.

If you are travelling abroad

- Ask your bank about the acceptance of international cards in the country or countries you are intending to visit as well as the number of ATMs. For comparison, there are almost 44,000 ATMs in France.
- Before leaving, note down the telephone number you will have to dial locally in the event you card is lost or stolen.

At your holiday destination

Keep up your good habits:

- Always shield with your free hand the hand that is entering your PIN when making a payment or withdrawal.
- Never let yourself be distracted by another person when you are using your card.
- Always put your card away safely.
- Never allow your card out of your sight in a shop, whether abroad or in France, even if it means you have to go to the cash register to pay.
- Note down your bank or your interbanking service's 24/7 telephone number (in France: 0 892 705 705 – 0.34 euros/min.).

When abroad

- Be aware that the chip and PIN are not universally used abroad, but their use is becoming more frequent in the United Kingdom, Morocco, Brazil, etc. Most of the time, it is your card's magnetic stripe that will be inserted in the cardreader and the retailer will ask you to sign the receipt.

When you get home, and as a general rule

- Check all your card payments on your bank statement to make sure they correspond to the amounts you actually spent.
- In the event of an error, contact your bank immediately.

*We remind you that in 2004, the **49.1 million** CB bankcards in circulation were used for almost **6 billion** payments and withdrawals for a total of 304.8 billion euros. 2.2% of these payments were made abroad, outside the CB system.*