

Runway East 2 Whitechapel Road London E1 1EW UK

Mr. Philippe Heim
Chairman of the Executive Board of La Banque Postale
Executive Vice-President of Le Groupe La Poste
La Banque Postale
115 Rue de Sevres Paris
75006 France

## Thursday 8 December 2022

Dear Mr. Philippe Heim,

I am writing to share ShareAction's 2022 banking survey 'In Debt to the Planet. An assessment of the 25 largest European banks' biodiversity and climate strategies.' We are extremely grateful for your contribution to our report and for all the positive engagement we have had this year with La Banque Postale.

With COP27 now behind us and little progress made, we need the financial sector to lead the way if we are to reach the Paris climate goal net-zero by 2050. Banks have the opportunity to play a critical role by reducing the financing of harmful activities and increasing the finance to low-carbon alternatives.

The report assesses the themes critical to achieving net zero by 2050 and ranked banks based on the performance of their policies. We also highlight leading practice and call out banks whose policies are falling behind their peers. Based on our analysis, your organisation ranked 9th with an overall score of 46% which is equivalent to a B- grade. The climate change section of our questionnaire accounting for two-thirds of the marks. La Banque Postale scored 20% of the points in the climate section and 59% in the biodiversity section. We would like to commend La Banque Postale for the leading practice case study on your landmark policy which leaves no room for the development of new oil & gas fields.

Our research shows that Europe's largest banks are not yet doing enough to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. This exposes banks to risks which pose a serious threat to future revenue and reputation, as well as posing material risks to our planet and everyone on it. While we recognise that the turbulent economic and political environment this year has created challenges, we urge banks to urgently strengthen their climate change and biodiversity policies.

To support you with identifying priorities for 2023, we have outlined three key asks for climate change and one key ask for biodiversity for La Banque Postale which will be the focus of our engagement next year:

- Report on drawn and undrawn exposures in financed emissions disclosures.
- Set targets using total commitments for lending activities to give shareholders better visibility of its exposure to transition risk.
- Ensure all board members receive regular trainings on climate change.



Biodiversity loss poses material risks to banks and requires urgent action. We encourage La Banque Postale to prioritise taking action on biodiversity loss with the same urgency as climate change and publish a standalone biodiversity strategy ahead of its 2024 AGM.

We are committed to engaging with and supporting La Banque Postale in the development of its policies and targets, and hope that our constructive dialogue will continue throughout 2023. As a next step, the banking team would appreciate the opportunity to present our report to you in the new year. Leyla Arpacioglu, Engagement Manager (Banks – Climate change and Biodiversity), will be in touch shortly to organise this with you.

I truly wish you and your team a wonderful Christmas break and I'm looking forward to building on our valuable relationship in 2023.

Warm regards,

**Catherine Howarth** 

CEO

ShareAction