



Press release

10 December 2010

Brussels Court of Appeal confirms earlier ruling of the Brussels Criminal Court and declares documents submitted by the Public Prosecutor in the KBC/KBL case inadmissible.

The Brussels Court of Appeal today confirmed the ruling of the Brussels Criminal Court of 8 December 2009, and declared the documents on which the Public Prosecutor's Office intended to base the proceedings inadmissible. The Court of Appeal ruled that the basic principles of a fair trial had been violated and that the investigating judge had not acted impartially. This ruling now closes the case against 14 former and present employees.

Both KBC Bank and Kredietbank SA Luxembourgeoise (KBL) have at all times stood by their (former) directors and management staff involved in this case and are satisfied that the Court of Appeal has established that the fundamental objections that had been raised for many years are well-founded. KBC and KBL remain of the opinion that, also regarding the substance of this case, their (former) management and other staff did not break any rules relating to the facts they were being accused of.

Background

In the KBC/KBL case, the Brussels Criminal Court concluded on 8 December 2009 that the criminal proceedings initiated against 14 former and present employees of KBC and KBL concerning alleged tax fraud on the part of Belgian customers were inadmissible.

The court judged that, given the exceptionally dubious circumstances in which the documents the public prosecutor wished to use had ended up in the hands of the judicial authorities, they could not be used as evidence in fair legal proceedings.

Following a close investigation into the way in which the disputed documents were incorporated into the proceedings, the court at the time ruled that the criminal investigation into KBC/KBL had not been conducted fairly and impartially. It provided very detailed reasons for its decision on 8 December 2009.

On 10 December 2009, the Public Prosecutor's Office decided to appeal the decision of the Brussels Criminal Court.

The debates before the Brussels Court of Appeal took place between 16 September and 12 October 2010.

KBC Group NV
Havenlaan 2,
1080 Brussels
Viviane Huybrecht:
General Manager,
Group Communications/
Spokesperson, KBC Group
Tel. +32 2 429 85 45

Press office
Tel. +32 2 429 65 01
Fax +32 2 429 81 60
E-mail: pressofficekbc@kbc.be