

## Netherlands: EIB finances OMO association's sustainable buildings

Today in Tilburg, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a financing agreement with the Ons Middelbaar Onderwijs (OMO) association. The EUR 60 million financing will enable OMO to undertake the sustainable refurbishment or new construction of a number of schools in the province of North Brabant.

In the coming years various new construction sites will be launched. In addition, individual school buildings will have to be refurbished and/or enlarged in the short term. In both the new construction and refurbishment works OMO will pay great attention to nearly zero-neutral public building requirements, such as energy efficiency and the creation of a healthy indoor environment.

“This is the first time that we support secondary education in the Netherlands” said EIB Vice-President **Pim van Ballekom**. “Having modern and adequate buildings stands in direct relation to students’ learning performance and the Bank is very happy to be able to contribute to the creation of good facilities in which students can prepare for their future. For the EIB, energy efficiency is an important part of the fight against climate change and the buildings’ expected performance was therefore one of the decisive factors in granting the loan.”

OMO’s CEO **Eugène Bernard** added: “Providing good education for our students – that is what drives us. And for that we need good facilities. In all our school buildings, we strive to ensure sustainability. Refurbishment and new construction projects like these require very substantial investment, so this loan is vital.”

Because the EIB is a not-for-profit European institution it is frequently able to offer lower interest rates and longer maturities than those found in traditional financing. In OMO’s case the loan has a maturity of 15 years.