

PRESS RELEASE

IX PAN-EUROPEAN BANKING MEETING IN MESTRE

Stress test for banks and managing lending policies in a difficult scenario

Mestre, 30 September 2011. The **IX Pan European Banking Meeting**, sponsored by Assiom Forex and Banca IFIS and addressed to members of Assiom Forex and ACI - The International Financial Market Association, was held today in Mestre. The topic of the workshop: *Stress test for banks and managing lending policies in a difficult scenario*.

The event got under way in the afternoon at Villa Marocco, Banca IFIS's headquarter, with the introduction of Prince Sebastien Egon von Fürstenberg, Chairman of Banca IFIS, followed by Giuseppe Attanà, Chairman of Assiom Forex.

The wide-ranging analysis – performed by leading representatives of monetary authorities, national and international associations, consulting and research firms and operational businesses in the financial sector – traced a comprehensive picture of the current situation, and identified certain future solutions in a scenario that is showing real difficulties.

During the course of the day, the following speakers took to the podium: Massimo Gangeri, Bank of Italy's Banking Groups Supervision Service; Gianfranco Torriero, ABI's Corporate Director and Head of Financial Markets and Strategies Department; Paolo Bisio, EBA's Stress-Testing analyst; Pietro Modiano, President of Nomisma; Vincenzo Mioccio, General Manager of e-Mid; Manfred Wiebogen, President of Aci International. The closing speech was given by Giovanni Bossi, Chief Executive Director of Banca IFIS.

Concerns over the level of the sovereign spread and the intensification of the debate between social parts and the Italian government has fuelled positive expectations especially by foreign investors, but unfortunately the scenario of aversion for risk common to Italy and to other European countries has yet to change. Market authorities and EU Central Banks, together with the IMF, are trying to speed things up, especially on the Greece issue, as a first basic step in dispelling the shadow of a crisis with no return for the Euro currency.

On that regard, the President of Assiom Forex, Giuseppe Attanà, pointed out: "It is basically difficult to see the risk premium on bank spreads return to normal values as long as there is no decisive sign of inversion in the sovereign spread".

After the event, Giovanni Bossi, Chief Executive Officer of Banca IFIS, commented as follows: “Important regulatory and operational issues were discussed with the aim of limiting risk profiles, capital and liquidity absorptions. We received further confirmation that Italian banks are solid and well managed, and their risks are under control. But, in a situation such as the one we are in, banks may be forced to reduce their offer to families and businesses, so our customers would be the ones to pay a very stiff bill. We all have to make every effort, take all possible actions and make all the necessary sacrifices to support our clients, be they companies or families or consumers, so that we can keep our savings here in Italy”.

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