



PRESS RELEASE

THE *BANCA POPOLARE DI VICENZA GROUP* AND *FARMANUOVA S.P.A.* LAUNCH A MERGER BY INCORPORATION OF THE LATTER INTO *FARBANCA S.P.A.* – A COMPANY IN THE AFOREMENTIONED GROUP.

(Press release drafted in accordance with art. 114 of Legislative Decree no. 58 of 24 February 1998)

Vicenza, 23 February 2012 - **BANCA POPOLARE DI VICENZA** – Joint-stock Cooperative, Parent Bank of the Banking Group of the same name – and **FARMANUOVA S.p.A.** – investee of said company – would like to communicate that, following the strategic decisions taken by the Board of Directors of Banca Popolare di Vicenza at the meeting on 7 February regarding the chance to launch the merger by incorporation of Farmanuova S.p.A. into FARBANCA S.p.A. – a company in the aforementioned Banking Group – the administrative bodies of the latter, as well as those of Farmanuova, today resolved to commence the above-mentioned merger.

The merger is subject to the prior authorisation of the Bank of Italy and shall, in any case, be resolved by the shareholders' meetings of the companies taking part in said merger.

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