



GRUPPOMONTEPASCHI

PRESS RELEASE

Approval of 2008 Results
Net Income amounts to 27 million euro. ROE attains 12.2%. Dividend equals 0.171 euro per share.

Biella, 30 March 2009. Today, the Meeting of Biverbanca's Shareholders – Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA, Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Biella, represented by its Chairman, Mr. Luigi Squillario, lawyer, and the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Vercelli, also represented by its Chairman, Mr. Dario Casalini, lawyer - chaired by its President, Dr. Pasquale Carciotto, has approved Biverbanca's 2008 Annual Report.

In summary, the Bank's 2008 figures evidence:

- **favourable earnings performance**, with a net income from banking activities of 141.4 million euro (+3.3%), a 42.8 million euro net operating income and a **27 million euro net income** (corresponding to a 12.2% ROE). **Dividend equals 0.171 euro per share** (74.29% payout);
- **overall assets entrusted to the Bank** exceeding **5,250.9 million euro**, with **direct customers' deposits** amounting to **2,676.9 million euro** (+2.9% year-on-year);
- **aggregate customers' loans amounting to 2,326 million euro**, only slightly down over the previous year (-1.3%). This result has been impacted by the performance of intra-group transactions with our former Parent's affiliates; net of this component, total loans to customers would increase by +0.9%. In addition, **credit costs** remained at satisfactory levels of **56 basis points**.
- healthy capital levels: both **Tier 1** and **Total Capital Ratio** stood at **7.79%**.

At year-end 2008, **Biverbanca's network numbered 105 branches** (of these, 46 were located in the province of Biella and 47 in the province of Vercelli) **and overall staff was equal to 702 employees**.

After approval of the balance sheet, **the Bank's capital and reserves, owing to the allocation of net profit for the year, amount to 197.7 million euro**.

During the Meeting, warm thanks and appreciation went to Pasquale Carciotto, Chairman, and to Angelo Barbarulo, General Manager, as well as to all employees, for their passionate and capable commitment to achieving remarkable results in a very difficult environment.

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