

**PRESS RELEASE**

**INTESA SANPAOLO: NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONTROL OF CARIFIRENZE STARTED**

*Torino, Milano, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007* – Intesa Sanpaolo - upon request of Consob - communicates that it has entered into negotiations with Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze for a transaction including the key points detailed below:

- acquisition of control of Carifirenze by Intesa Sanpaolo;
- acquisition of an interest in Intesa Sanpaolo by Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze;
- retaining by Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze of a minority stake in the capital of Carifirenze;
- widening of the geographical area currently covered by Carifirenze.

As for press rumours, regarding in particular the price, a “non-cash” deal and a possible delisting of Carifirenze, Intesa Sanpaolo clarifies that these issues are part of terms and conditions which have not yet been defined by the parties so far.

Any further development will be duly disclosed to the market.