

# SANPAOLO IMI

## Sanpaolo IMI Group: stock option windows open 28 March

**Turin, 27 March 2006** – SANPAOLO IMI announces that tomorrow will be the opening of the fourth period in which 2002 stock options of Group Management may be exercised. The period will end on 21 April 2006.

Furthermore, and again from tomorrow, the final period for the exercise of 2001 stock options will open, ending on 31 March 2006.

Under both plans, up to 4,005,500 SANPAOLO IMI ordinary shares, at a strike price of 7.12 euro per share (2002 plan) and 12.72 euro per share (2001 plan). Shares will be valid from 1 January 2005.

Finally, from tomorrow, the final window for stock option 2001-2003 plan for shares reserved for the Chairman and Managing Directors ( 2002 period) will open, ending on 21 April 2006. Up to 1,650,000 SANPAOLO IMI ordinary shares may be purchased. The strike price for this plan is 12.62 euro per share.