

News release

Voluntary public tender offer launched by Banco Popolare for all Banca Italease shares: authorization from the Bank of Italy to acquire control over Banca Italease

Verona, 6th May 2009 – With regard to the voluntary public tender offer on all Banca Italease S.p.A.'s ordinary shares launched by Banco Popolare Soc. Coop. in compliance with art. 102, paragraph one, and art. 106, paragraph four, of Legislative Decree n. 58 of 24th February 1998, and announced on 16th March 2009 (the "**Offer**"), we herewith inform, that with order n. 457066 delivered today, the Bank of Italy notified Banco Popolare that it issued the authorization to acquire control over Banca Italease and its subsidiaries as a result of the Offer.

The authorization also covers the acquisition of control over NewCo One, a company under formation, and of a qualified shareholding in NewCo Two, a second company under formation, as a result of the reorganization actions under the Framework Agreement signed on 15th March 2009 by Banco Popolare, Banca Popolare dell'Emilia Romagna, Banca Popolare di Sondrio and Banca Popolare di Milano.

It is noted that the Anti-Trust Authority in its meeting of 16th April 2009 had resolved not to conduct any inquiry on the above transaction.

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