



PRESS RELEASE

Information concerning Unipol's Mandatory Public Tender Offer on BNL

With reference to our press release of 23 July 2005, we communicate that on 4 August the following documents were submitted by Unipol to the Banca d'Italia:

- (i) the request for authorization to acquire the controlling stake of *Banca Nazionale del Lavoro S.p.A.* ('**BNL**'), in accordance with Article 19 of the Legislative Decree 385 of 1 September 1993;
- (ii) the request for authorization to indirectly acquire the controlling stake of *BNL Fondi Immobiliari, Società di Gestione del Risparmio p.A.* and of *BNL Gestioni, Società di Gestione del Risparmio p.A.*, in accordance with Article 15 of the Legislative Decree 58 of 24 February 1998 (the '**Consolidated Law**');;
- (iii) the preliminary communication prescribed by Article 16 of the Law 287 of 10 October 1990 on competition and market protection. The communication was made to the Banca d'Italia in its quality of relevant supervisory authority pursuant to Article 20 of the above mentioned law.

Moreover, on 8 August 2005 the request for authorization to acquire full control of *BNL Vita, Compagnia di Assicurazioni e Riassicurazioni S.p.A* was submitted to ISVAP in accordance with Articles 10 and 11 of the Law 20 of 9 January 1991.

As indicated in the press release issued on 4 August, we recall that the communication concerning the launch of the public tender offer on BNL, pursuant to Article 102 of the Consolidated Law and Article 37 of the CONSOB Regulation 11971 of 14 May 1999, together with the offer document, will be sent to CONSOB as prescribed by law and therefore not later than 17 August 2005.

Bologna, 9 August 2005

This announcement is not an offer of securities for sale in the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia or in any other country where such an offer is not permitted without specific authorizations by the competent authorities.

The Tender Offer described in this announcement is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, or by use of the mails, or by any means or instrumentality (including, without limitation, facsimile transmission, telephone and the internet) of interstate or foreign commerce, or of any facility of a national securities exchange, of the United States and the Offer cannot be accepted by any such use, means, instrumentality or facility or from within the United States. "United States" means the United States of America, its territories and possessions, any State of the United States and the District of Columbia

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