

PRESS RELEASE

Today the Court of Milan passed the trial judgment concerning the alleged market rigging on Unipol preference shares in the framework of operations carried out on these stocks between March and April 2003, involving the companies Aurora Assicurazioni S.p.A., Finsoe S.p.A. and Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena. The aforementioned judgment provided sentence, amongst the others, of the General Manager of Unipol Gruppo Finanziario, Dr Carlo Cimbri.

Pursuant to the relevant applicable law, this pronouncement – of which the ruling is presently known but the reasons are not – leads to Dr Cimbri's temporary suspension from the office of General Manager in the Company.

In this respect, the Chairman and the CEO hereby communicate that on 8 May 2008 the Company's Board of Directors – having been updated on the motion presented by the Public Prosecutor in the aforesaid proceeding, unanimously expressed its solidarity and esteem i.r.o. the General Manager, as well as trust in his conduct.

The Board of Directors of Unipol Gruppo Finanziario to be held on 22 May 2008 will examine this issue, so as to adopt the most appropriate resolutions.

Bologna, 14 May 2008

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