

PRESS RELEASE

THE BANKER AWARDS 2012: INTESA SANPAOLO WINS 'BANK OF THE YEAR 2012 IN ITALY' AWARD FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

TWO OTHER BANKS IN THE GROUP ALSO AWARDED: BANCA INTESA BEOGRAD (SERBIA) AND PBZ (CROATIA)

London, 29 November, 2012 – For the third consecutive year, Intesa Sanpaolo has been awarded the '**Bank of the Year 2012 in Italy**' prize by the influential monthly financial publication, THE BANKER (Financial Times group), during the awards ceremony held last night in London.

The award, recognised as setting the '*standard for banking excellence*' in the world of finance, was awarded taking into account a broad basket of criteria including strong performance in economic terms, as well as capital, liquidity and Tier 1 levels. Other criteria include the promotion of numerous initiatives in support of businesses, efficiency in responding to the changing needs of customers and constant introduction of innovative measures as a tool to increase customer satisfaction, and productivity levels.

THE BANKER, which has awarded its prestigious prize to Intesa Sanpaolo for the third consecutive year, has also awarded Banca Intesa Beograd the '**Bank of the Year 2012 in Serbia**' prize, while PBZ was awarded '**Bank of the Year 2012 in Croatia**'.

"We are truly honoured by this recognition", **Enrico Tomaso Cucchiani**, Managing Director and CEO of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group commented. "In a recessionary environment which continues to be highly challenging for the banking sector, our Bank has achieved strong results and high capital and liquidity ratios, placing us in a leading position in terms of Eurozone performance rankings."

Intesa Sanpaolo is leader in Italy in all business areas (retail, corporate and wealth management). The Group provides its services to 10.8 million customers through a network of approximately 5,500 branches located throughout the country with market shares no lower than 15% in most regions. Intesa Sanpaolo has a selected presence in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, with over 1,500 branches and 8.3 million customers of subsidiaries operating in retail and commercial banking in 12 countries. It also has an international network specialized in supporting corporate customers, which oversees 29 countries, in particular the Middle East and North Africa and areas in which Italian companies are most active, such as the United States, Russia, China and India.

Media Relations +39.02.87963531- stampa@intesasanpaolo.com