

**PRESS RELEASE**

**INTESA SANPAOLO: FITCH LOWERS THE BANK'S LONG-TERM AND VIABILITY RATINGS FOLLOWING ITALY'S DOWNGRADE. SHORT-TERM RATING CONFIRMED**

*Turin - Milan, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2013* – Intesa Sanpaolo communicates that Fitch lowered the Bank's long-term rating to 'BBB+' from 'A-', with negative outlook, and its Viability Rating to 'bbb+' from 'a-'. The short-term rating was confirmed at 'F2'.

The rating actions follow the downgrade of Italy's long-term rating to 'BBB+' from 'A-' with negative outlook announced by Fitch on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Intesa Sanpaolo's long- and short-term ratings are now at the same level as, and capped at, the Italian sovereign ratings.