

PRESS RELEASE

**INTESA SANPAOLO: LOAN TO THE GERMAN PREZERO
(SCHWARZ GROUP) LINKED TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

- **Additional international transaction concerning the 6-billion-euro ceiling announced in the 2018-2021 Business Plan.**
- **Mauro Micillo: “We remain committed to providing financial support for the innovative re-design of the industrial system”**

Milan, 19 January 2021 - Intesa Sanpaolo and PreZero - the waste and recycling management unit of the German retailer Schwarz Group - have signed their second transaction in the amount of 70 million euro to achieve specific targets related to the circular economy.

For Intesa Sanpaolo this marks the conclusion of an additional international transaction concerning the 6-billion-euro ceiling dedicated to the circular economy and envisaged by the 2018-2021 Business Plan. The loan to PreZero is linked, in particular, to the Schwarz Group’s strategy in terms of improving plastic recycling.

The transaction was concluded by the **IMI Corporate and Investment Banking Division** of Intesa Sanpaolo, headed by **Mauro Micillo** – thanks to the Industry Food & Beverage and Distribution Team with the colleagues of the Frankfurt office – with the support of the Circular Economy Desk of **Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center**, a company dedicated to innovating and spreading the circular economy, led by **Maurizio Montagnese** and headed by **Guido de Vecchi**.

“We are delighted to extend our collaboration with a leading international company like PreZero”, commented Mauro Micillo, Head of Intesa Sanpaolo’s IMI Corporate & Investment Banking Division. “This transaction confirms the increasing focus of both Italian and international industrial groups on products and services tied to sustainability and the circular economy. Providing support and impetus to initiatives such as this is precisely why the Group has decided to include a 6-billion-euro ceiling in the 2018-2021 Business Plan which is aimed at enterprises planning to adopt the circular economy model, offering them the best conditions for securing credit. That is why Intesa Sanpaolo intends to continue to redefine business strategies in an innovative way, guaranteeing financial support for investments to support the redesign of the industrial system.”

To boost and support the Green Economy, Intesa Sanpaolo has developed a wide and diversified range of financing and advisory products, dedicated to all types of customers, in Italy and abroad. Projects receiving Intesa Sanpaolo loans for the circular economy must meet a number of criteria, including product life extension, renewable energy, resource optimisation, recyclable products and technologies that enable and foster this economic model. This allows the Bank to disburse loans at increasingly advantageous terms for customers, subject to verifying the achievement of the circular economy objectives.

Intesa Sanpaolo is one of the most sustainable banks in the world, featuring in the leading sustainability indices. This background and the strong drive towards innovation form the basis of a commitment to the circular economy, an economic model aimed at decoupling development from the exploitation of finite natural resources, as well as redesigning the industrial system. **Intesa Sanpaolo is the Financial Services Strategic Partner of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation**, a global leader in promoting the circular model, with which it has been collaborating since 2015.

Press information

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Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading Bank in Italy and one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe. It offers commercial, corporate investment banking, asset management and insurance services. The Intesa Sanpaolo Group has approximately 14.6 million customers in Italy who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels and 7.2 million customers abroad with subsidiaries operating in commercial banking in 12 countries in Central Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern and North African areas and an international network of specialists in support of corporate customers across 26 countries. Intesa Sanpaolo is recognized as one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver for growth, for the benefit of both society and the economy. As regards the environment, the Group has set up a 6-billion-euro fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of 1.5 billion euro for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by the Bank or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the Bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples, Vicenza and soon Turin.

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