

PRESS RELEASE

BPER continues process of Group simplification and rationalisation

Modena – 30 October 2013. Banca popolare dell'Emilia Romagna società cooperativa ("BPER") would like to announce that the Board of Directors has approved the guidelines of a strategic project to simplify and streamline the organisational and governance structure of the Banking Group: the plan is for the Italian-registered banks to be absorbed by the Parent Company between the end of 2014 and the first half of 2015. This integrates what was already planned and implemented under the 2012-2014 Business Plan and forms a base on which to establish priorities for the next Plan. Note, in this regard, that the Parent Company has already successfully absorbed Meliorbanca and the three central Italian banks (Banca Popolare di Lanciano e Sulmona, Cassa di Risparmio della Provincia dell'Aquila and Banca Popolare di Apilia) in November 2012 and May 2013, respectively.

"The purpose of this project - explains Luigi Odorici, BPER's CEO - is to make the guidance, supervision and control activities within the Group more effective and to achieve significant synergies, while expanding the range of services offered to customers. The staff of the banks due to be absorbed will be given the utmost consideration to ensure an appropriate enhancement. In addition, attention to the particular characteristics of the various local communities that we serve will be ensured by setting up suitable delocalised control units (Territorial Divisions) and Territorial Committees with the task of developing interventions to support local communities and their economy, as we have already carried out successfully during previous mergers".

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