

PRESS RELEASE

**Information on some of the aspects concerning next Shareholders'
Meeting**

**Quali-quantitative composition of the Board in view of the partial
replacement of the Board of Directors and
announcement of the dates of Shareholders' Meeting 2013**

Modena – February 19th 2013. The Bank's Board of Directors, during the meeting held today, completed an analysis aimed at pre-emptively identifying the quali-quantitative composition of the Board of Directors, which is to be considered the optimal composition in relation to the correct and most effective performance of the Board tasks and duties, as provided for by the provision issued by Banca d'Italia on January 11th 2012 on this subject (the "Provision").

The analysis, published on the Bank's website www.bper.it – Corporate Governance section - Corporate bodies - Shareholders' Meeting 2013 -, highlights the theoretical profile that all persons wishing to hold office as Director should meet and feature, as established by the self-assessment process implemented by the Board.

This notice is issued considering the need, laid down in the above mentioned Provision, to disclose the results of the said analysis to the Shareholders in due time, so that they may choose the candidates to be appointed as members of the Board of Directors taking into account their professional skills and competence, as required.

As known, the Shareholders' Meeting shall be called for the purpose of appointing, amongst other things, 6 Directors (over a total of 19 Directors making up the Board) for the three-year period 2013-2015.

To this end, a help document - providing the operating modalities for submitting the list of Candidates within the scope of the Directors' appointment for the three-year period 2013-2015 - will be available to the public at the Bank's website www.bper.it – Governance Section – Corporate Bodies – Shareholders' Meeting – Shareholders' Meeting 2013. The aforementioned document will be available as of Wednesday, February 27th 2013, so as to satisfy both the information duties in relation to the shareholders and the company organizational needs.

Finally, we deem it useful to notify, as of today's date, that the Board of Directors of the Bank, while reserving the right to formally call the Meeting at a later date, has identified the following dates for holding the ordinary Shareholders' Meeting: 19th April 2013 (first call) and 20th April 2013 (second call).

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This is a translation into English of the original in Italian. The Italian text shall prevail over the English version.