



**Banca Popolare di Milano**  
Fondata nel 1865



*Milan, 18 October 2006*

**BANCA POPOLARE DI MILANO AND MILANO ASSICURAZIONI CONSOLIDATE  
THEIR AGREEMENT TO GROW BANCASSURANCE BUSINESS**

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

**In accordance with art.114 of Legislative Decree 58/98**

- **On the basis of agreements concluded on 14 June last year with the Banca Popolare di Milano, Milano Assicurazioni has exercised its option to purchase 4% of Bipiemme Vita S.p.A. capital at a price of Euro 7.9 million, increasing its total shareholding to 50%;**
- **the relevant Bipiemme Vita S.p.A. company bodies have arranged to integrate the Board of Directors with the appointment of Luca Guasco to represent the Fondiaria-SAI group;**
- **the agreements provide for the possibility of transferring the controlling share from Bipiemme Vita to Milano Assicurazioni by 30 June 2007, via the sale and purchase of a further 1% capital share.**

\* \* \*

Milan, 18 October 2006

Banca Popolare di Milano S.c.r.l. (“**BPM**” or the “**Bank**”) and Milano Assicurazioni S.p.A. give notice, on the basis of agreements concluded on 14 June to grow the Bipiemme Group’s bancassurance business, jointly and exclusively, in the Life insurance sector - leading BPM and the subsidiary Banca di Legnano to sell a total of 46% of Bipiemme Vita S.p.A. (“**Bipiemme Vita**” or the “**Company**”) share capital to Milano Assicurazioni – that the latter has exercised its option to purchase a further 4% share of the Company’s capital, bringing its total shareholding to 50%.

In accordance with contractual forecasts, the purchase price was fixed at Euro 7.9 million.



**Banca Popolare di Milano**

Fondata nel 1865



Bipiemme Vita's shareholders' meeting made provision to integrate the Board of Directors with the appointment of Luca Guasco to represent the Fondiaria-SAI Group.

It should be remembered that the agreements provide, subject to certain conditions, for control of the Company to be transferred from the Bipiemme Group to Milano Assicurazioni, through the sale and purchase of a further 1% capital share between 1 March and 30 June 2007 inclusive.

Bipiemme Vita operates via approximately 700 Bipiemme Group branches and closed the first half of 2006 with premium income of Euro 319 million and a net profit amounting to Euro 5.2 million.

Company contacts:

**Banca Popolare di Milano**

*Communications, Press and PR.*

Ezio Chiodini, tel. 02 77 00 3396 – Anna Lisa Presicce, tel. 02 77 00 3784

*Investor Relations*

Roberto Peronaglio, tel. 02 77 002574

**Fondiaria-SAI S.p.A.**

*Press Office*

Federica Dal Conte tel. +39-02-66.70.43.24

*Investor Relations*

Luca Guasco, Giancarlo Lana, Floriana Amari tel. +39-011-66.57.642