

Press Release

MPS Group: legal dispute with Parmalat

Siena, October 6th 2005. The Official Administrator of Parmalat SpA and of Parmalat Finance Corporation BV, with a writ lodged at the Parma law courts, recently served notification on Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena (BMPS) of a demand for compensation of damages of “in any case not less than 1.3 billion euro”, equal to the amounts of bond loans issued on three occasions as from March 30th 1999, which featured the Bank’s participation in the respective underwriting and placement syndicates in the role of joint lead manager. The same writ also cites MPS Finance BM SpA with a further demand for damages of € 300 million in relation to the bond issue of February 18th 2002, in which the company took part in the capacity of lead manager.

As regards this, BMPS, whilst reiterating the correctness of the conduct on all occasions of both the Bank and its subsidiary MPS Finance BM SpA, advises that it believes the Official Administrator’s demands to be totally groundless and, similarly, that it is ready to take action in all instances to defend its image and obtain compensation for possible damages.

Because of what is stated above, BMPS Group believes that the claims for compensation advanced by the Official Administrator will not cause any effects on its financial and capital status. Consequently, it excludes making any specific provision whatsoever for them.

This press release will be available on the Web site at the address: www.mps.it

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