



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena Spa (BMPS) and PKB Privatbank AG (PKB), a bank wholly owned by the Luxembourg group COFI SA which controls Cassa Lombarda Spa di Milano in Italy, have reached agreement on the transfer from BMPS to PKB of the entire share capital of Banca Monte Paschi (Suisse) SA, based in Lugano.

Banca Monte dei Paschi (Suisse) SA is a Swiss bank doing business in the Lugano and Geneva capital markets. It has been active in the private banking sector since 1992.

The acquiring bank, PKB Privatbank AG, is a Swiss bank founded in 1958 and specialising in wealth management. PKB has its head office in Lugano and branches in Geneva and Zurich.

The efficacy of the contract of sale signed today is conditional on the parties obtaining authorisation for the deal from the Swiss Federal Banking Commission.

*Siena - Lugano, 8 July 2004*

The present announcement will also be made available on the Internet at [www.mps.it](http://www.mps.it)