

PRESS RELEASE

**FITCH PLACES BMPS ON RATING WATCH NEGATIVE
FOLLOWING PLACEMENT OF ITALY ON NEGATIVE WATCH**

Siena, 20 December 2011 – Banca Monte Paschi di Siena informs that, following Fitch Ratings' decision to place 6 euro zone countries, including Italy, on Rating Watch Negative (RWN), BMPS ratings ('BBB+'/'F2') and Support Rating Floor ('BBB') have also been placed on RWN.

The full version of the FitchRatings Press Release can be viewed on the rating agency's website: www.fitchratings.com.

This press release will be available on our website at www.mps.it

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