

PRESS RELEASE

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**Banks: Mr. Faissola, welcomes the EU approval of the  
Government plan for capitalisation**

The Italian Banking Association welcomes the approval, which was granted today by the European Commission, of the amendments introduced in the Italian plan for the recapitalisation of banks.

The President of ABI, Mr. Corrado Faissola, said, “Brussels’ authorization paves the way for a solution in line with European standards, also taking into consideration the recent amendments that were introduced. The measures that were drafted are only intended for banks considered *‘fundamentally solid’*, and represent a further recognition for our system, which, even if it is facing a crisis, continues to support families and enterprises”.

Milan, 20 February 2009