

ABI: 'green' loans from more than 70% of banks

Mr. Zadra: "environmental awareness becomes a key issue in strategic plans of banks"

Banks are in the forefront in supporting the environment; as a matter of fact, 71.4% of the sector offers funding tools to enterprises employed in the production of facilities for obtaining alternative energy, or dealing with environmental certification processes. Furthermore, banks increasingly pay more attention to the assessment of counterparties to be financed in terms of environmental risks: approximately 60% of the banking system takes Environmental Credit Risks (ECS) into account, in particular with respect to project financing transactions. These are the main results of a survey conducted by ABI with regard to environmental responsibility on a sample of 40 banks, representing 89% of the banking system in terms of branches, and 90% in terms of assets.

The General Manager of ABI, Mr. Giuseppe Zadra, explained, "For Italian banks, environmental awareness and attention to social responsibility are key elements of their particular way of doing business and being a business, as is proven by their strong commitment in terms of investments in support of energy efficiency". In terms of the banking system, awareness to energy efficiency issues led to the creation of the ABIEnergia Consortium in December 2003. The Consortium, established by the Italian Banking Association, conducts analysis, research, and projects; its goal is to define sustainable measures in order to optimize energy management and its use in banks.

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