

PRESS RELEASE

**Crisis - Faissola: we're ready to collaborate with the government**

“It’s a significant economic policy measure that will enable Italy to overcome the crisis and provide Italian households and companies with the necessary tools and solutions to tackle and emerge from the crisis” stated Corrado Faissola, President of ABI, with regard to his first impressions of the measures set out in the anti-crisis decree approved today by the Council of Ministers.

“We appreciate the government’s willingness to underwrite financial instruments.” Faissola added. “We will set out our position in greater detail after the specific economic terms and conditions, which must be at market conditions, are specified”.

“We agree with this measure’s objectives – concluded Faissola – but this decree is so broad ranging and covers so many sectors in which banks operate that it needs to be closely examined, also from a technical point of view; this will enable us to ensure its effective application.”

Rome, Palazzo Altieri, November 28 2008