

PRESS RELEASE

“Common Announcement”: Faissola, €8 billion extra in SME liquidity from last January

Requests for the suspension of debt by small and medium enterprises have slowed during the previous month. The system is still effective. As at 31 January 2010, 136,000 applications had been received, compared to 117,000 at the end of December. 91% of applications have been accepted. Only 2% have been rejected. The latest figures show that the most popular sectors are industry, retail/hospitality and other services. 584 banks have joined the scheme, constituting over 98% of branches.

The number of small and medium enterprises applying for the "Common Announcement" - the scheme for the suspension of debt during a potentially difficult period - is continuing to increase, though with less intensity. This is the picture emerging from the latest figures on the use of the scheme. From January 2010, small and medium enterprises have been able to rely on an additional €8 billion in liquidity. This is €1 billion more compared to December 2009, when the figure was €7 billion. These are the latest monitoring figures on the use of the "Common Announcement", the agreement signed on 3 August in the presence of the Minister of Economy, Giulio Tremonti, ABI and other representatives of the permanent Observatory on financial and corporate relations.

The official monitoring figures show that, as at 31 January 2010, 136,000 applications had been received from businesses, amounting to a total loan value of €42 billion. In the third survey in December 2009, approximately 117,000 requests had been received for a total loan value of €37.3 billion. The banking system has examined 128,000 applications (€40 billion) with the following results: 80% of applications have been accepted (99,000 amounting to €31.6 billion), 21,000 are still in progress (€7 billion), while only 2% of applications have been rejected (2,700 amounting to €650 million).

The President of ABI, Corrado Faissola emphasised that "since January the banks have made almost €8 billion available to businesses in the form of suspended principal repayments on loans".

AVVISO COMUNE SOSPENSIONE DEBITI PMI: MONITORAGGIO OPERAZIONI
FINO AL 31 GENNAIO 2010

	Numero	Debito residuo (mln di euro)	In % domande pervenute		In % domande ammissibili	
			Quota su numero	Quota su debito residuo	Quota su numero	Quota su debito residuo
Domande pervenute	135.876	42.011	100,0%	100,0%		
Domande pervenute non ancora analizzate	7.784	1.533	5,7%	3,6%		
Domande analizzate	128.092	40.478	94,3%	96,4%		
Domande non ammissibili	5.049	1.128	3,7%	2,7%		
Domande ammissibili	123.043	39.349	90,6%	93,7%	100,0%	100,0%
Domande accolte*	99.211	31.577	73,0%	75,2%	80,6%	80,2%
Domande in corso di esame	21.079	7.118	15,5%	16,9%	17,1%	18,1%
Domande non accolte	2.753	654	2,0%	1,6%	2,2%	1,7%

* La quota capitale sospesa è pari a circa 8 miliardi di euro

Key:

Avviso Comune sospensione debiti PMI: Monitoraggio Operazioni fino al 31 gennaio 2010 - Common Announcement SME debt suspension: Monitoring results to 31 January 2010

Domande pervenute - applications received

Domande pervenute e non ancora analizzate - applications received, not yet examined

Domande analizzate - applications examined

Domande non ammissibili – not eligible applications

Domande ammissibili – eligible applications

Domande accolte - applications received*

Domande in corso di esame - applications under exam

Domande non accolte - applications rejected

**The total amount of debt suspended is equal to €8 billion.*

Numero - number

Debito residuo (mln euro) - residual debt (€ million)

In % domande pervenute - % of applications received

Quota su numero - % of number

Quota su debito residuo - % of residual debt

In % domande ammissibili - % of eligible applications

Quota su numero - % of number

Quota su debito residuo - % of residual debt

In relation to the number of applications by individual business sectors, industry, retail/hospitality and other services stand out. An analysis of the geographic distribution of applications by registered office show that 54.5% of applications were received from businesses in Northern Italy. The remainder were received from businesses registered in Central and Southern Italy.

As highlighted in previous months, the compliance of the banks with the Common Announcement, and therefore their willingness to provide further support to businesses during this difficult time, has been impressive: as at 25 February, 584 banks and financial institutions had joined the scheme, amounting to a total of 33,555 branches (98.3% of the total number of branches in Italy).

Rome, Palazzo Altieri, 2 March 2010