

PRESS RELEASE

**Abruzzo: ABI , extraordinary measures
for households and businesses affected by the earthquake**

Requests of President of Abruzzo Region, Gianni Chiodi, accepted.

The banking industry continues to offer the population struck by the earthquake the possibility of suspending repayment plans for outstanding loans. After 30 June, the date on which the automatic suspension of all loans will cease, as decided by ABI in December, special versions of the Household Plan and the Common Announcement will be ready, which will enable the customer to suspend them upon request if they fulfil certain requisites

New measures to support the Abruzzo people affected by the earthquake: the Italian Banking Association, with an Executive Committee decision, yesterday gave the green light to the social solidarity measures that will be introduced after 30 June, i.e. when the general and automatic suspension of all loan payments ceases, as established by ABI in December. This is the goal of the measures to be introduced by the banking sector, which today accepted the requests put forward by President of the Abruzzo Region, Gianni Chiodi.

In view of the imminent expiry, on 30 June, of the extension of the suspension of mortgage payments and loans existing as at 6 April 2009 (date of the earthquake), and the ongoing difficulties being experienced by customers in the Abruzzo area, ABI has modified the initiatives launched by the banking industry at national level on the basis of the specific requirements of the people affected by the earthquake.

The approval of the measures therefore marks the end of the principle of automatism by which the suspension of repayments was applied to all outstanding loans, unless otherwise requested by the customer, and the return to a situation of "gradual normality", where households and businesses can take advantage of such measures following a specific request and if they fulfil certain requisites.

The new measures therefore represent an adjustment, based on the specific features of post-earthquake Abruzzo, of the "mortgage instalment payment suspension scheme forming part of the *Household Plan*" and the "Common Announcement for the suspension of SME debt towards the credit sector", modified according to the requirements of the area hit by the earthquake.

Measures for households

Households living in the municipalities affected by the earthquake can request the suspension of mortgage repayments for their main home. The suspension is applicable to mortgages of no greater than 150,000 euro, whose holder has a taxable income of less than 40,000 euro a year and finds themselves in one of the conditions foreseen by the Household Plan (loss of job, death or loss of self-sufficiency, employment suspended).

The duration of the suspension is fixed at an additional 6 months.

Measures for businesses

As regards businesses, the content of the Common Announcement is modified, extending to all businesses (including large businesses) localised in municipalities affected by the earthquake, the facilities established for small and medium enterprises.

The date on which companies that request suspensions or extensions should have had positions classified by the company as "*in bonis*" was moved to 6 April 2009. Customers can make suspension requests up until 31 January 2011.

As has been the case until now, each bank may voluntarily adhere to the measure and offer customers improved conditions than those foreseen. ABI will gather the requests from individual institutes and publish them on its website. The ABI initiative represents one of the measures adopted by the banking system to assist the people affected by the earthquake of 6 April 2009.

Rome, Palazzo Altieri, 25 June 2010