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PRESS RELEASE

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**Banks: ABI, ‘integration’ is the key word for corporate responsibility**

*Sabatini: “Support business management and communications transparency, for better risk control and long-term market stability”. Starting gun ready for the fifth Corporate Social Responsibility forum. Focus on reporting, sustainable loans, investments and asset management.*

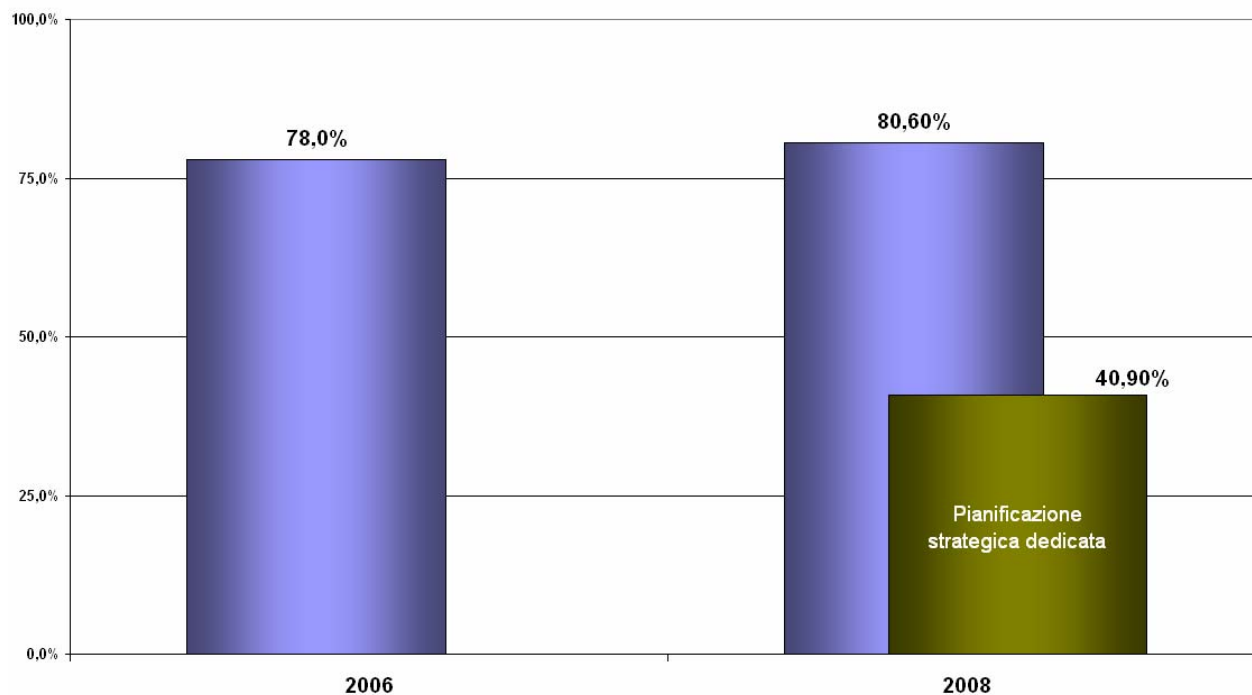
Design strategies and transfer them into solid processes. Assume commitments and comply with them. In a word, report them. The banks are confirmed active in processes that allow the measurement and reporting of their corporate social responsibility. 80% of banks in total asset terms, equal to 71.7% of branches in Italy, prepare a social report. 52% attach and distribute the report with the annual financial statements. These are just some of the figures that will be presented at the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Forum opening today in Rome on the theme *Responsibly transparent: market development. Banks, institutions and stakeholders come together*. At the annual event that ABI dedicates to corporate social responsibility, now in its fifth edition, the focus is on reporting, sustainable investments and asset management, financial innovation and credit rating, responsible communications.

“To improve business management and communications transparency, for better risk control and long-term market stability: in this sense CSR becomes a strategic activity for banks and business in general,” explains Giovanni Sabatini, General Manager of ABI, on opening the Forum. “The key word is ‘integration’. The integration of CSR into standard bank activities: day-to-day operations in the various business segments. Downstream of this process, reporting is an important part of social responsibility. Its strategic objectives need to be defined, and then the solid, material results reported with respect to the commitments assumed”.

“The growth of social responsibility,” Sabatini continues, “calls for the commitment of the various players in the field. The particular historic situation we find ourselves in calls for in-depth transformation, to prevent repetition of the “conduct” underlying this crisis”.

According to the latest ABI figures, almost all the Italian banking industry in total asset terms, equal to 80% of the entire system, has formalised its CSR commitments. 41% have a strategic plan. 64% have set up a business unit dedicated to CSR.

**La vostra banca ha formalizzato l'impegno di CSR?**



Key:

Title: Has your bank formalised its CSR commitment?

2008: Dedicated strategic planning

The Forum aims to understand whether and in what way CSR know-how, practices and tools are capable of contributing to business management and communications transparency, and of facilitating long-term market stability.

Once again this year experts from the banking, academic, business and association world will meet and discuss opinions and experiences in plenary sessions, in-depth round tables and interactive co-building sessions. Among the speakers, in addition to ABI's General manager Giovanni Sabatini, are Massimo Roccia – Manager of ABI's Central Retail Department and General Secretary of the Patti Chiari Consortium; Enrico Granata – Manager of ABI's Central Regulatory Department; Giulio Sapelli – Milan University; Davide Dal Maso – General Secretary, Sustainable Finance Forum; Pedro Ortún Silvan – Director, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission; Antonio Vigni – General Manager, Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena; Andrea Linares – ANSA Economy Editor-in-chief; Vittorio Maragon – CEO, DNV Italia; Alessandro La Terza – Culture Commission Chairman, Confindustria; Giuseppe Van Der Helm – Executive Director, European Sustainable Investment Forum; Mike Wallace – Director, Sustainability Reporting Framework, Global Reporting Initiative.

Rome, 10 February 2010