

PRESS RELEASE

**Amato, Carosio, Ciocca, Faissola, Profumo, Sabatini and Sarcinelli
present the "History of ABI 1972-1991"**

The ABI President emphasises: "Anyone who was involved during those years will vividly remember a crucial period, the prelude to important legislative changes that fundamentally transformed and reinvented the credit sector". Presentations by the CEO of Unicredit and the President of Dexia-Crediop are dedicated to the two ABI Presidents between 1976 and 1987, Silvio Golzio and Giannino Parravicini.

Retracing the steps of the Italian banking industry in the 1970s and 1980s with the contribution of a number of authoritative protagonists of the two decades. This is the theme of the event to be held tomorrow, 2 March, in Palazzo Altieri on the occasion of the launch of the book "History of ABI. The Italian Banking Association 1972-1991, which will be presided over by ABI President, Corrado Faissola. Following presentations by Alessandro Profumo, Mario Sarcinelli and the two authors of the book, there will be a round table discussion with the participation of Giuliano Amato, Giovanni Carosio, Pierluigi Ciocca and the Director General of ABI, Giovanni Sabatini. "Many of us" - observes Faissola - "have vivid memories of those years. For instance, Giuliano Amato, Treasury Minister at the end of the 1980s, then Chairman of the Board, was instrumental, along with Carlo Azeglio Ciampi in introducing the 1990 law which fundamentally transformed and innovated the Italian banking system".

Amato is only one of the authoritative witnesses who will contribute to the presentation of twenty crucial years in the history of world economics, from the point of view of the Italian banking industry. Between 1972 and 1991, from the end of the Bretton Woods system to the year of the Maastricht European Council, one system declined and the foundations of a new, integrated, international, modern system were meticulously laid. The narrative of the work by historians Pier Francesco Asso and Sebastiano Nerozzi is set against the backdrop of these two decades and portrays a period of restructuring in the banking industry, not immune to large international changes but, at the same time, able to preserve and strengthen its role within the national financial system.

The round table discussions will look at the topical nature of the story of a crisis period, characterised by a strongly unstable economy, which led to the gradual emergence of a more competitive, international, structure. In the book, Asso and Nerozzi portray a world hit by radical change, examining the events in ABI and its contribution to the reform and the modernization of the Italian financial system.

"At such a complex juncture" - continues Faissola - "two individuals who featured prominently during the lifetime of ABI, were able to offer the best of themselves: those individuals were Silvio Golzio and Giannino Parravicini, President from 1978 to 1983 and 1984 to 1987, respectively. These are among the key protagonists in Asso and Nerozzi's book and we celebrate the centenary of the birth of both men during the coming months". The talks by Profumo e Sarcinelli are dedicated to the two men, and are respectively entitled: "Silvio Golzio, from Credito Italiano to ABI" and "Giannino Parravicini, the economist and banker".

Asso and Nerozzi will explore the broader theme of the dual value of the ABI, at the same time able to play both the roles of protector and reformer of a system in transition. The two historians are also authors of a previous work on the history of ABI between 1944 and 1972. "That period" - emphasises Faissola - "coincided with the revival of the Association in the post-war period and the long Presidency, almost thirty years, of Stefano Siglienti who was head of ABI during the reconstruction years and the Italian economic miracle".

Rome, Palazzo Altieri, 2 March 2010