
PRESS RELEASE

P.A.: ABI, more bank technology and innovation for public administration services

Faissola: "Urgent measures have to be found to encourage business and bank participation in large public works contracts, relaunching development also through the infrastructural works necessary in Italy".

Less paper, cash and bureaucracy and more Internet, electronic invoicing and dematerialisation of documents and procedures in everyday contact between the banking sector and Public Administration. Banks and public administrations discuss the new frontiers opened by technology and ITC to make operations and communications between them more simple, rapid and secure – all to the advantage of the public and businesses. The event is the second edition of ABI's *Banks and P.A. Forum*, held today and tomorrow in Rome, where banks and public administrations from all common business sectors come together. Not only financing, investment support, debt management support and local development, therefore, but also an increasingly advanced and efficient banking services network.

"Latest generation tools such as electronic invoicing," says ABI chairman, Corrado Faissola, "are an innovative contribution to simplifying everyday contact between Public Administration and the public and enterprise". Specifically, *electronic invoicing* – made compulsory by the 2008 Finance Act for companies and operators that work with public authorities – allows Public Administration to optimise and automate the procurement, billing and related payment stages, with an overall public saving of around 10 billion euro per year. It could also be the technical tool that allows Public Administration to reduce the timing of payment of invoices from suppliers. A complex topic affected by extremely significant factors such as compliance with the Stability Agreement and which deserves to be discussed and resolved, also with support from the banks.

In the two-day banks and P.A. workshop – whose participants, amongst others, include the ANCI chairman Sergio Chiamparino and the CdP CEO Massimo Varazzani – there will be debate on the relations between public authorities, the public, enterprise and banks, also in the light of possible changes brought about by full implementation of fundamental reform of all matters public, such as Federalism and accounting. Lastly, a strong focus also on financing investments in public works with a session dedicated to the Public-Private Partnership and Project Financing in particular.

"In Italy," Faissola points out, "recourse to Public-Private Partnership is mainly for small-scale public works, whilst it is almost absent in awards for large projects which, involving different levels of Public Administration, run into more complexities in achieving consent, in turn leading to longer and more costly implementation times. We need to act quickly to find solutions that encourage business and bank participation in large public works contracts, relaunching development also through the infrastructural works necessary in Italy".

Palazzo Altieri, Rome, 18 February 2010