

PRESS RELEASE

Banks: mortgage payments corresponding to a total value of 1 billion suspended for more than 10 thousand households

The first figures of the monitoring on the initiatives envisaged by the Abi "Household Plan" were presented: from suspension of instalments € 66 million of more liquidity. Most of the operations concern the full instalment (93%). Suspension from work or reduction of the working hours and termination of the employer-employee relationship are among the prevailing causes. Most of the applications come from Northern Italy (58%), followed by Southern Italy and the Islands (23%) and the Centre (19%).

In less than two months, from February to March 2010, banks suspended mortgage payments for € 1 billion to more than 10 thousand households. More liquidity has already reached € 66 million to face up the crisis during the first period in which the initiative was launched. 10,281 loan agreements – for a residual debt of € 969 million – benefited from this opportunity. Each household will have € 6,600 more on average. These are the first figures of the monitoring on the suspension of mortgage payments, illustrated today in Rome during the "Household Plan – first results" Round table discussion in which representatives of Abi, Cei, Anci, Household Division of the Prime Minister's Office, Conference of the Autonomous Regions and Provinces, Consumer organisations that signed the agreement of 18 December 2009 took part.

Commenting on the first results, the President of ABI, Corrado Faissola, emphasised: "We are very satisfied that this instrument of real support to households produced such an important result in only two months by demonstrating that the common work among industry and main public and private subjects can meet the needs of household and society".

More precisely, the most frequent solution for the suspension operations concerned the full instalment (93% of cases). The most frequent cause that determined the need to resort to this opportunity in performing positions (without delays in payment) *was* suspension from work or reduction of the working hours (Cig, mobility etc.). Whereas, In case of delays in payment, it was the termination of the employer-employee relationship. From a "local" viewpoint, the higher number of accepted applications is in the North with 58%, followed by the South and the Islands with 23% and the Centre with 19%.

During the meeting, the Manual called *We believe in your will to restart*, a booklet on the operation of the initiatives that Abi promotes together with public and private institutions, was presented: suspension of mortgage payments, extraordinary income support fund advance, new born fund, loans for university students, microcredit programs, accessing funds for usury prevention.

More precisely, the Agreement on the suspension of mortgage payments carried out last December between Abi and Consumer organisations, aims at offering an immediate instrument of support to households. The main characteristics are set below:

- suspension for at least 12 months, also for customers with delays in payments up to 180 consecutive days;
- loans up to € 150,000 taken out for the purchase, construction or renovation of the main home;
- customers with a taxable income up to € 40,000 per year, who have undergone or are undergoing during the 2009-2010 two-year period particularly negative events (death, loss of employment, onset of non self-sufficiency conditions, laying-off).

The initiative is the minimum measure to which the associated banks could accept, without prejudice to the complete freedom of each bank to offer the customer conditions that are better than those provided in the Agreement. To date, 172 banks, representing 64% of the market, offered improved conditions.

The Plan was launched on 1 February and the customers may apply for the suspension until 31 January 2011, with reference to events occurred from January 2009 to 31 December 2010.

Rome, Palazzo Altieri, 6 May 2010