

PRESS RELEASE

Banks: ABI; budget for economic missions, almost 40 billion in loans for internationalisation

Only about 50% of the credit limit was used, 20 billion are still available to finance Italian companies in 26 countries of four continents. Mr. Faissola said, "Exceptional budget for three years of banking-related missions organized by ABI with Ice, and Confindustria in support of internationalisation"

Almost 40 billion Euros have already been allocated. 17 billion have already been used, while 20 billion are still available to finance exports and investments on markets that are viewed as "strategic" for the growth of Italian economy. This is the total credit limit of the 21 banking-related missions that in three years, from 2005 to the present day, have seen the involvement of over 200 Italian banks and more than 600 noted exponents and representatives of the banking sector, working side by side with companies and institutions in 26 countries of four continents.

The President of ABI, Mr. Corrado Faissola, during the economic mission that was organized with Confindustria and Ice, following the Government, emphasised, «It is an exceptional budget, which is proof of the commitment of Italian banks to make the dreams and project of our entrepreneurs become a reality, both in Italy, and outside national borders. Exceptional not only in terms of value, even if it is worth 2.4% of our GDP, but in terms of quality, for the ability to cooperate in order to enhance every aspect of our Country that we have shown in recent years. This, in our sector, means not only providing resources and services every day, but also technical skills, consultancy, and support, on all those markets where our companies choose to work and compete; not least the Egyptian market, which is currently hosting the twenty-first mission, realized with the collaboration of banks, companies, and institutions».

Banking-related missions: all the banking sector's numbers

	COUNTRIES	CREDIT LIMIT (Billion Euros)	MILLIONS USED	MILLIONS AVAILABLE	BANKS IN DELEGATION	SECTOR EXPONENTS
2005	India, Bulgaria, Turkey	4.4	2.1	2.3	29	64
2006	Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Territories, Tunisia, Turkey, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, China, India	19.4	9.9	9.5	83	268
2007	Tunisia, India, Algeria, South Africa, Kazakhstan, China	10.4	3.5	6.9	79	217
	Mexico, Egypt	3.2	1.3	1.9	21	69
TOT	26	37.4	16.8	20.6	212	618

Banking-related missions: the top-five in credit lines

A great deal of the total credit limit provided by Italian banks – nearly 8 billion Euros, which means 0.5% of the GDP – was allocated to finance business initiatives in neighbouring Mediterranean countries, which represent an increasingly strategic area for Italian companies. Samples of emerging countries, such as China (over 5.2 billion) and India (nearly 2.7 billion), are also at the heart of the internationalisation strategies of Italian banks, as shown by the substantial resources allocated by the banking sector to support exports and investments in these Countries with excellent prospects for growth. Finally, great attention is given to growth prospects and investment opportunities for large, small and medium enterprises of the massive Brazilian market (nearly 1.9 billions).

MISSION	CREDIT LIMIT (Billion Euros)
1) Mediterranean Countries	8010
2) China	5232
3) India	2682
4) Mexico	2300
5) Brazil	1890

Cairo, 9 April 2008