
PRESS RELEASE

Banks: ABI requests a meeting with the Italian Antitrust Authority

Substantial perplexities as to method and merit. The regulation has been operational for only a few months.

ABI acknowledges the initiative undertaken by the Italian Antitrust Authority. While confirming its complete respect for institutional prerogatives, the Association draws attention, however, to how the method of intervention and the unilateral proposal at the expense of debate and discussion, risks causing confusion and above all, not leading to feasible solutions that are coherent with operations or the market.

The regulation regarding the availability of funds has been fully operational for only a few months and has recently been integrated with transparency regulations. Initial analyses, published during the 'Saving day', have shown that in recent months, cost items are on average less onerous for customers compared to the previous situation. Then again, it is less complex to establish the general effects on all consumers. Judgements that do not reflect a significant period of time may lead to reactions that are difficult to assess in a sector fully engaged in sustaining households, businesses and the country's economy.

ABI has requested a meeting with the Italian Antitrust Authority in order to understand the details of the analyses conducted, with a view to fully collaborating with all Authorities and institutions.

Roma, Palazzo Altieri, 29 December 2009