



Press release

CAVAZZUTI: "THE TIES WITH THE BEST ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS IN THE EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION BECOME STRONGER"

GIANFRANCO RAGONESI DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN OF CARISBO

ISABELLA SERAGNOLI JOINS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bologna, 3rd August 2005. Gianfranco Ragonesi, already a Board Member, has been appointed as Deputy-Chairman of Carisbo, the bank of the Sanpaolo Imi Group operating in the Emilia Romagna Region, while Isabella Seragnoli has been co-opted in the bank's Board of Directors.

The above-mentioned appointments were decided by the bank's Board of Directors during a Meeting held this morning in Bologna.

Isabella Seragnoli is the Chairwoman of Coesia, the industrial group that operates in the automatic machines sector, with a turnover of Euros 624 million and more than 3,200 employees. The group's point of strength is represented by GD, the company based in Bologna and world leader in the production of packaging machines for the tobacco industry.

Gianfranco Ragonesi, who was previously Chairman of the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute of Bologna, is currently the Secretary-General of the Furio Farabegoli Foundation and the General Manager of 'Confartigianato-Federimprese Emilia Romagna', the Association that has a membership of 48,000 small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the Region, and has been a Board Member of Carisbo since 1997, and where until yesterday had the role of Senior Director.

"These appointments strengthen the involvement of our Region's best entrepreneurial business to the bank's management. - declared Filippo Cavazzuti, Chairman of Carisbo – The close and historical ties of Carisbo with business enterprises have been strengthened, especially the ties with the medium and small-sized enterprises of Emilia Romagna".

"Moreover, Carisbo wants to confirm the deep-rooted position of our bank in the territory – Cavazzuti continued – where we are among the primary operators on the credit market and where we want to be the door opening towards the global market for the Region's families and enterprises, also thanks to the more innovative financial instruments and to the international operating capability guaranteed by the bank's position as a member of the Sanpaolo Imi Group".

The female presence on the Board of Directors of Carisbo has increased to three with Isabella Seragnoli (in addition to Maria Lucia Candida, General Manager of the bank, and the entrepreneur Silvia Noè).