

**PRESS RELEASE**

**INTESA SANPAOLO AND OTHER MAIN SHAREHOLDERS FINALISE SALE OF 92% OF CENTRALE DEI BILANCI TO BAIN CAPITAL AND CLESSIDRA**

*Torino, Milano, 23 December 2008* – Today, the main shareholders of Centrale dei Bilanci (“CeBi”, the Central Balance-Sheet Data Office) - Intesa Sanpaolo (24.7% of the capital), UniCredit (22.8%), MPS (12.6%), Banco Popolare (10.8%), Banca d’Italia (9.0%), BNL - Gruppo BNP Paribas (7.0%) and UBI (5.0%) - have finalised the sale to Bain Capital and Clessidra SGR of approximately 92% of the capital of CeBi, which controls (85%) Cerved Business Information - the leading company in the Italian business information.

Bain Capital and Clessidra SGR offered €535 million (100% CeBi Enterprise Value).

The transaction is expected to have a positive impact on the Intesa Sanpaolo consolidated net income of approximately 90 million euro and Core Tier 1 ratio of some 2 basis points.

The selling parties have been assisted by Leonardo & Co. and Credit Suisse as financial advisors, law firms Grimaldi & Associati and Carbonetti as legal advisors, Accenture as market report writer and PWC as consultants in charge of financial, fiscal, HR and IT due diligence.

The transaction is subject to the Italian Competition Authority’s appraisal.

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