



MPS Group: 2003 first-quarter results

- Significant development of business volumes: new commercial flows +12.4% and mortgages +27%
- Further growth of total customer funds (+0.6%) and of technical reserves (+24.8%)
- Strong growth of Net Interest Income (+8.2%) and of Commercial Banking Operating Income (+5%)
- Operating cost stable in respect of 2002 quarterly average; cost/income at 63.7%
- > Net profit of EUR 131.6 million; ROE at 10.4%

Siena, 15 May 2003. At a meeting today chaired by Pier Luigi Fabrizi, the Board of Directors of Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A. approved the Group results for the first quarter to 31/03/2003. In a climate marked by the continuation or intensification of the external difficulties that emerged during 2001 and 2002, the **MPS Group** focused on containing cost trends, continuing the commercial policy introduced in 2002, completing a series of major corporate restructuring operations and moving ahead with key projects.

Summary of consolidated results

From an **operational perspective**, despite the highly uncertain business scenario, the MPS Group posted significant results in its core commercial banking business, with overall growth in operations and margins compared with the previous year.

With regard to balance-sheet aggregates, total customer funding posted a significant growth (+0.6% yoy) amounting to EUR 169,790 million. Direct funding rose by 1.1% (with a 6.5% share of the domestic funding market), a result of continuing strong performance in bonds placement set against a slowdown in short term deposit. Indirect funding came in at EUR 92,700 million (+0.3% on an annualized basis), despite a further slide of approximately -8% of Stock Markets. The heading included funds under management totaling EUR 38,448 million (-1.5% on the previous year), with placements focusing on lower risk, highly marketable products with a high embedded value (technical reserves: +24.8%). Highlights included: EUR 1,177 million of insurance premiums (with an estimated 11.7% share of the "bancassurance and postal" system); EUR 715 million of mutual funds

and SICAVs (with an 8.3% share of flows) and EUR 775 million of innovative finance products, as well as approximately EUR 1.6 billion of financial products for corporate customers.

Customer loans and advances were 4.6% higher against March 2002 and down by EUR 860 million against 2002 year-end, with **domestic market share standing at 6.3%**. These results were in line with such operating priorities: attentive assessment of credit-worthiness, re-definition of pricing, limitation of risk and capital absorption. The slowdown in corporate loans was strongest for short-term maturities, while medium/long-term maturities maintained steady growth (market share at 7%), driven by new retail and corporate mortgage loans, which reached the impressive amount of approximately EUR 1,335 million, against EUR 1,051 million in first quarter 2002, and by the growth of new volumes in specialized lending.

The ratio of non-performing loans and watch-list credits measured 3.3% (3.2% at the end of 2002), while the ratio of net non-performing loans to total customer loans was steady at year-end levels (1.5%) and well below the industry average, estimated at 2.2%. Similarly, the ratio of gross non-performing loans to total customer loans was 2.7%, against an estimated industry average of 4.6%.

Thanks to the slowdown achieved in the capital requirement for credit and market risks, the Group had a Tier 1 ratio (including retained earnings) estimated at 6%.

With regard to earnings aggregates:

- Net interest income rose by EUR 47.7 million (+8.2% on the previous year, +0.6% on the previous quarter, +7.1% on the 2002 quarterly average). The improvement was due mainly to steady short-term spreads, growth in loans and funding, and the impact of asset-liability management policies. The breakdown by **Business Units** shows that the specialized loan companies achieved growth of more than 17%.
- Non interest income amounted to EUR 511.2 million, down 10.5% on the previous year excluding income arising from the first-quarter securitization of performing loans from the 2002 figure. The result reflected profits of EUR 105.6 million from financial transactions (an improvement of 6.5% over 2002) and earnings from companies valued with the net equity method of EUR 12.6 million, up by EUR 2.9 million over 2002; the contribution of the insurance business was a key factor here, with the MontepaschiVita group reporting a growth of 82%. Banking fees stood at 342 EUR million (-13.9%) absorbing the negative "performance effect" on the value of assets under management for customers (the year-on-year decline in Share Indices topped 30%), the related reduction in turnover on equity portfolios, and the gradual shift of customers to liquid and/or low-risk investments.

As a result of the above, **total banking income** came to EUR 1,139.9 million (down 4% over the 2002 quarterly average).

Administrative expenses amounted to EUR 726.1 million (-3.6% on fourth quarter 2002, -0.02% on the 2002 quarterly average). "Other expenses" declined by 1,8% over 2002 quarterly average, thanks to the decisive cutting programs initiated in 2002. These are expected to produce a further slowdown during the year. Personnel expenses for the first

quarter to 31/03/2003 were down by EUR 8.5 million from fourth quarter 2002 to EUR 449 million, a figure in line with budget projections. **Compared with the 2002 quarterly** average, the rise in personnel expenses was 0.9%.

Gross operating profit accordingly came to EUR 413.8 million, down by 10.2% against the 2002 quarterly average. **Cost/income (computed without depreciation and amortization charges)** came to 55% excluding tax collection and start-ups and to 63.7% including also these Business Units. Focusing on the commercial banking results (Retail+Corporate) it is highlighted a growth of more than 5% in its Operating Result, thanks to stable operating expenses and an improvement of just under 5% in total banking income. The latter benefited from higher volumes of loans and funding, and steady spreads (net interest income +11%) as well as positive placement volumes for savings products which compensated for the downturn in customer commissions.

Ordinary operating earnings improved by 1.6% against the 2002 quarterly average including: **adjustments** to intangible and tangible fixed asset values amounting to EUR 76.8 million (+4.7% vs +15,4% in 2002) and **net adjustments to the value of loans** of EUR 98.3 million (+37.9 million compared with 31/3/02, but down from the 2002 quarterly average), applied in line with the Group's traditionally conservative accounting policy, especially in view of the current economic climate. As part of this policy, the Group strengthened specific provisions for coverage of non-performing loans (from 45% to 45.5%) and general provisions on performing loans (to 0.92%). Including these provisions, total coverage of non-performing loans 80%.

First-quarter earnings also included the balance of extraordinary items, a tax burden that benefited from the positive structural effect of the recent Group mergers to give a consolidated tax rate of 39%, and lower minority interests (also as a result of the above operations). Consolidated net income for the first quarter thus came to EUR 131.6 million (-10% over the 2002 quarterly average); annualized ROE was 10.4%, against 12.1% at 31/12/02. Excluding tax collection business and start-up, ROE was close to14%.

Significant operating initiatives

During the first quarter of 2003, the Group moved ahead with the program of strategic projects introduced in 2002 to implement the 2002-2005 Business Plan. With regard to commercial platforms and product innovation, it continued to diversify and enhance its offer for the dual purpose of improving customer service capacity and leveraging unrealized potential. Moving on to **optimization of credit risk**, the on-going review of approval and management processes aimed at strengthening the governance of risks, neared completion. Operating efficiency improvements included on-going implementation of a series of projects (optimization of network processes, review and re-sizing of commercial banks' central units, stronger back office, etc.). The aim is to enhance operating efficiency and free up resources for commercial operations. The **Group restructuring** program continued in the first quarter with finalization of the merger into the parent of Banca Agricola Mantovana and Banca Toscana and the simultaneous spin-off of banking operations to two newly established unlisted companies.

This press release is published on the web site: www.mps.it

MPS GROUP: KEY DATA AND RATIO ANALYSIS

Profit and loss aggregates	3/31/03	3/31/02 restated	Chg.%
Total banking income	1,139.9	1,223.6	-6.8
Gross operating income	413.8	519.8	-20.4
Net income	131.6	158.9	-17.2
Net income adjusted for goodwill	153.8	179.5	-14.3
Balance sheet aggregates	3/31/03	3/31/02	Chg.%
Aggregate customer funding	169,790	168,711	0.6
Direct funding - including subordinated debt	77,090	76,260	1.1
Indirect funding	92,700	92,451	0.3
including: Funds under management	38,448	39.025	-1.5
including: Funds under administration	54,252	53,426	1.5
Customer loans and advances	67,606	64,648	4.6
Consolidated shareholders' equity	6,422	5,925	8.4
Credit quality indicators (%)	3/31/03	12/31/02	
Net non-performing loans / Customer loans and advances (%)	1.5	1.5	
Watchlist credits / customer loans and advances (%)	1.8	1.7	
Profitability ratios (%)	3/31/03	12/31/02	
	44.8	50.6	
Non interest income/Total banking income Cost/Income ratio % (excluding depreciations and amortization)	44.8 63.7	61.2	
Cost/Income ratio % (including depreciations and amortization)	70.4	69.8	
Cost/Income ratio % (including depreciations and amortization) (°)	67.9	67.6	
Adjusted ROE (%)	12.0	14.3	
R.O.E. (*)	10.4	12.1	
(°) excl Tax Collection area			
(*) shareholders' equity net of real estate revaluation reserve			
Solvency ratios (%)		12/31/02	
Total capital ratio %		8.79	
Tier 1 Ratio %		6.05	
Share data	3/31/03	3/31/02	
Number of shares outstanding	3,014,431,630	2,598,722,319	
Number of savings shares outstanding	9,432,170	9,432,170	
Ordinary share price during the year:			
- average	2.18	2.97	
- low	1.93	2.69	
- high	2.50	3.40	
Operating structure	3/31/03	12/31/02	Abs. Chg.
Number of banking employees (end of period)	24,850	24,872	-22
Number of total employees (end of period)	27,466	27,517	-51
Number of branches in Italy (*)	1,829	1,827	2
Number of foreign branches and foreign representative offices	37	37	
Number of customers with online connections to the Group banks	1,317,442	1,203,083	114,359
NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WITH ONLINE CONNECTIONS TO THE GROUP DARKS (*) data include facilities of specialized units MPS Merchant and MPS Banca Verde	1,317,442	1,203,083	114

(*) data include facilities of specialized units MPS Merchant and MPS Banca Verde

MPS Group

Reclassified Consolidated Balance Sheet (in EUR mn)

ASSETS	3/31/03	3/31/02	Changes		12/31/02
		restated	Abs	%	
Cash on hand and deposits with central bank and post office	433	654	-221	-33.8	834
Loans:					
a) Customer loans and advances	67,606	64,648	2,958	4.6	68,472
b) Amounts due from banks	12,999	14,054	-1,055	-7.5	16,027
Trading Account Securities	15,103	12,634	2,470	19.5	12,45
Non-current assets					
a) Investment securities	4,259	4,279	-20	-0.5	4,45
b) Equity investments	2,730	2,968	-238	-8.0	2,18
c) Fixed assets and intangible assets	2,666	2,545	120	4.7	2,57
Positive consolidation differences & positive net equity differences	849	827	22	2.6	87
Own shares or quotas	45	15	30	207.2	10
Other assets	23,804	15,074	8,730	57.9	21,00
Total Assets	130,493	117,697	12,796	10.9	128,88
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	3/31/03	3/31/02	Change Abs	s	12/31/02
Liabilities		Toolatou	7.00	70	
a) Customer deposits and borrowed funds					
backed by negotiable instruments	73.759	73.216	543	0.7	77.25
b) Due to banks	23,576	18,628	4,948	26.6	20,51
Reserves for specific use					
a) Pension funds	448	438	10	2	43
b) Staff severance indemnity reserve	392	391	1	0.3	39
c) Other reserves for risks and charges	619	568	51	9.0	61
	851	968	-118	-12.1	74
 d) Reserve for taxes 	100			56.0	18,93
,		13.272	7.427		
Other liabilities	20,699	13,272 305	7,427 56		,
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses	20,699 361	305	56	18.3	35
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt	20,699 361 3,330	305 3,044	56 287	18.3 9.4	355 3,270
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests	20,699 361	305	56	18.3	35 3,27
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests Shareholder's equity:	20,699 361 3,330 36	305 3,044 942	56 287	18.3 9.4	35 3,27 80
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests	20,699 361 3,330	305 3,044	56 287 -906	18.3 9.4 -96.2	35 3,27 80 1,67
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests Shareholder's equity: a) Share capital	20,699 361 3,330 36 1,935	305 3,044 942 1,356	56 287 -906 579	18.3 9.4 -96.2 42.7	35
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests Shareholder's equity: a) Share capital b) Paid-in capital	20,699 361 3,330 36 1,935 523	305 3,044 942 1,356 523	56 287 -906 579 0 -85 1	18.3 9.4 -96.2 42.7 0.0	35 3,27 80 1,67 52 36
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Winority interests Shareholder's equity: a) Share capital b) Paid-in capital c)Reserve for general banking risks	20,699 361 3,330 36 1,935 523 361 23 3,449	305 3,044 942 1,356 523 445 22 3,419	56 287 -906 579 0 -85 1 29	18.3 9.4 -96.2 42.7 0.0 -19.0 5.2 0.9	35 3,27 80 1,67 52 36 2 2,38
Other liabilities Reserve for loan losses Subordinated debt Minority interests Shareholder's equity: a) Share capital b) Paid-in capital c)Reserve for general banking risks d) Negative consolidation and net equity differences	20,699 361 3,330 36 1,935 523 361 23	305 3,044 942 1,356 523 445 22	56 287 -906 579 0 -85 1	18.3 9.4 -96.2 42.7 0.0 -19.0 5.2	355 3,270 800 1,675 525

MPS Group Reclassified profit and loss statement - (in EUR mn)

	3/31/03	3/31/02	Changes		Quarterly Avg	12/31/02	
	restated (*) A		Abs	%	2002		
Net Interest Income	628.7	581.0	47.7	8.2	586.7	2,346.6	
Profit (loss) from financial transactions	105.6	99.2	6.4	6.5	35.0	140.1	
Net commissions	285.8	350.5	-64.7	-18.5	354.9	1,419.5	
Other operating income	106.8	170.2	-63.4	-37.2	134.2	536.6	
Dividends and tax credit	0.5	13.1	-12.7	-96.5	68.0	272.2	
Earnings of companies valued with net equity method	12.6	9.7	2.9	30.3	9.1	36.3	
Non Interest Income	511.2	642.7	-131.5	-20.5	601.2	2,404.6	
Total Banking Income	1,139.9	1,223.6	-83.8	-6.8	1,187.8	4,751.2	
Administrative expenses							
- personnel expenses	-449.3	-434.8	-14.6	3.3	-445.2	-1,781.0	
- other administrative expenses	-276.8	-269.1	-7.7	2.9	-281.9	-1,127.5	
Total administrative expenses	-726.1	-703.8	-22.3	3.2	-727.1	-2,908.5	
Gross Operating Profit	413.8	519.8	-106.0	-20.4	460.7	1,842.8	
Valuation adjustments to fixed and intangible assets	-76.8	-73.4	-3.4	4.7	-101.5	-406.2	
Goodwill admortization	-22.2	-20.6	-1.6	7.9	-22.1	-88.5	
Provisions for risks and charges	-16.6	-1.4	-15.2	ns.	-10.6	-42.4	
Valuation adjustments to loans net of recoveries	-98.3	-60.4	-37.9	62.8	-109.5	-438.0	
Provision to loan loss reserve	-8.3	-10.2	1.9	-18.8	-22.5	-90.0	
Writedowns to non-current financial assets	-1.0	-8.7	7.8	ns.	-6.9	-27.6	
Profit (losses) from ordinary operations	190.6	345.2	-154.5	-44.8	187.5	750.1	
Extraordinary income (charges)	25.6	12.2	13.4	110.1	13.3	53.3	
Change in reserve for general banking risks	0.0	0.0	0.0	ns.	21.2	85.0	
Income taxes	-83.4	-166.8	83.4	-50.0	-54.1	-216.6	
Profit for the period before minority interests	132.8	190.5	-57.7	-30.3	168.0	671.9	
Minority interests	-1.3	-31.6	30.4	-96.0	-22.5	-90.0	
Net profit for the period	131.6	158.9	-27.4	-17.2	145.5	581.8	

(*) The data for the quarters of 2002 exclude the figures for such period for the subsidiary banks, Cassa di Risparmio di Prato and Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato, both of which were sold in the fourth quarter. Besides the first quarter 2002 includes the values of "Sorit", society earlier valued with net equity metod, the contoll of which has been required in the fourth quarter 2002. Considering minority interests, acquired with the merger of the first quarter 2003, the net profit for the Group at 31/3/02 should be restated at 188.5 €/mil.

MPS Group

Quarterly profit and loss statement

(in EUR mn)

	Year 2003	3 Year 2002 restated value as of (*)			Quarterly Avg		
	1Q03	4Q02 Restated	3Q02 Restated	2Q02 Restated	1Q02 Restated	2002	12/31/02
Net Interest Income	628.7	624.7	576.5	564.4	581.0	586.7	2,346.6
Profit (loss) from financial transactions	105.6	136.7	-34.4	-61.5	99.2	35.0	140.1
Net commissions	285.8	397.9	324.5	346.5	350.5	354.9	1,419.5
Other operating income	106.8	112.7	75.4	178.3	170.2	134.2	536.6
Dividends and tax credit	0.5	13.7	-1.7	247.0	13.1	68.0	272.2
Earnings of companies valued with net equity method	12.6	15.8	8.6	2.2	9.7	9.1	36.3
Non Interest Income	511.2	676.9	372.5	712.6	642.7	601.2	2,404.6
Total Banking Income	1,139.9	1.301.6	949.0	1.277.0	1.223.6	1,187.8	4.751.2
Administrative expenses							
- personnel expenses	-449.3	-457.6	-434.7	-453.9	-434.8	-445.2	-1,781.0
- other administrative expenses	-276.8	-295.9	-283.1	-279.4	-269.1	-281.9	-1,127.5
Total administrative expenses	-726.1	-753.6	-717.8	-733.2	-703.8	-727.1	-2.908.5
Gross Operating Profit	413.8	548.0	231.2	543.7	519.8	460.7	1,842.8
Valuation adiustments to fixed and intangible assets	-76.8	-158.3	-88.7	-85.7	-73.4	-101.5	-406.2
Goodwill admortization	-22.2	-24.6	-21.3	-22.0	-20.6	-22.1	-88.5
Provisions for risks and charges	-16.6	-15.5	-9.1	-16.4	-1.4	-10.6	-42.4
Valuation adjustments to loans net of recoveries	-98.3	-180.4	-92.7	-104.5	-60.4	-109.5	-438.0
Provision to loan loss reserve	-8.3	-70.8	-5.6	-3.4	-10.2	-22.5	-90.0
Writedowns to non-current financial assets	-1.0	-8.6	-2.7	-7.6	-8.7	-6.9	-27.6
Profit (losses) from ordinary operations	190.6	89.8	11.0	304.1	345.2	187.5	750.1
Extraordinary income (charges)	25.6	6.6	18.0	16.5	12.2	13.3	53.3
Change in reserve for general banking risks	0.0	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.2	85.0
Income taxes	-83.4	106.0	-8.1	-147.7	-166.8	-54.1	-216.6
Profit for the period before minority interests	132.8	287.4	21.0	172.9	190.5	168.0	671.9
Minority interests	-1.3	-25.9	-12.9	-19.6	-31.6	-22.5	-90.0
Net profit for the period	131.6	261.5	8.1	153.3	158.9	145.5	581.8

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(*) The data for the first three quarters of 2002 exclude the figures for such period for the subsidiary banks, Cassa di Risparmio di Prato and Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato, both of which were sold in the fourth quarter. Besides the first three quarter 2002 includes the values of "Sorit", society earlier valued with net equity metod, the contoll of which has been required in the fourth quarter 2002.