

PRESS RELEASE

**Agreement signed between the Banca Monte dei Paschi di
Siena and the Banca Popolare di Puglia e Basilicata
on the disposal of 15 branches for an amount of 73.5 million
Euros**

46 mln capital gains for Bmps expected

Siena, 21 July 2009 – The Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena and the Banca Popolare di Puglia e Basilicata (BPPB) have signed an agreement for the disposal of 15 branches of the Montepaschi Group to BPPB (of which 7 in Lombardy, 6 in Piedmont and 2 in the Lazio region), in alignment with the announced asset disposal programme and Italian Antitrust Authority directions.

BPPB has purchased the assets at a purchase price of 73.5 million Euros, equal to 11.2% of the Total Funding of the branches. On the basis of the agreed price, Euro 46 mln capital gains (gross of tax impact) are expected, together with a *tier 1 Ratio* benefit (connected also to the release of *Risk Weighted Assets*) of approximately +5 bps, which is in line with the results expected out of the branch disposal programme.

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