

PRESS RELEASE

BPER GAINS CONTROL OF CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI BRA

Modena – 7th February 2013. Obtained the necessary approvals from the competent Authorities “Banca popolare dell’Emilia Romagna Soc. Coop.” (“**BPER**”) and “Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Bra” (the “**Fondazione**”), today implemented the “Share purchase/sale agreement” signed on 20th September 2012 regarding the sale of 35.98% of Cassa di Risparmio di Bra (the “**Cassa**”) by the Fondazione to BPER, for a total amount of around Euro 23.9 million.

As a result, BPER now has a 67.00% controlling interest in the share capital of the Cassa (the *pre-deal* stake was 31.02%).

As soon as possible, BPER and the Fondazione will strengthen the capital base of the Cassa by subscribing a capital increase on a pro-rata basis, in order to boost its growth and expansion in the Piedmont Region.

The BPER Group is the sixth largest banking group in Italy in terms of branches and the third largest in the cooperative banking movement. It is active in all major market segments, also taking into account its subsidiaries and joint ventures: in Corporate & Investment Banking, Wealth Management & Insurance, Leasing, Factoring and Consumer Credit. The Group has a presence in most parts of Italy through a series of local banks, with a network of over 1,300 branches.

Cassa di Risparmio di Bra is a local bank with a long history, founded in 1842. It currently operates through a distribution network of 26 branches located in the provinces of Cuneo, Asti, Alessandria and Turin.

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This is a translation into English of the original in Italian. The Italian text shall prevail over the English version.