

Press Release

Milan/Rome, 13th March 2006

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking to open new office in Rome

As part of its ongoing commitment to growing and strengthening its business in Italy, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking is opening a second office in Italy, in Rome. This will allow the bank to further develop, in particular, its public sector activities through dedicated and locally based professionals. Giovanni Ortolani, Managing Director and Senior Banker, will be responsible for this office.

"Italy is a key European market and a fundamental part of our business, so a second Italian office in Rome highlights the importance of the public sector and the value we place on activities here", explained **Pascal Augè, Chief Country Officer in Italy**. "Since 2003, Société Générale Corporate and Investment Banking invested and recruited significantly to develop its local platform, that now numbers approximately 160 professionals. In the past months, for example, Prof. Gian Maria Gros-Pietro has become our Senior Advisor and we have enlarged our local debt capital market and structured finance platform with the recent addition of specialised teams in the project finance, structured asset finance and leveraged finance to further enhance our market presence; the result has been a sharp increase, around 50%, in our revenues."

In 2005, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking obtained excellent results on the Italian market in its three key areas of excellence: euro capital markets, structured finance and derivatives. The bank reached leading debt capital market positions and is ranked respectively 2nd and 6th on the euro-denominated bond market for corporates and financial institutions (*Euroweek, December 2005*), 3rd Bookrunner for Securitisation (*IFR & Thomson Financial, December 2005*) and it is also the undisputed leader on the Italian stock exchange for ETFs and warrants (*EquityDerivatives House of the Year, Risk Italia Magazine, 2005*).

Last year Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking arranged several top deals on behalf of its key Italian clients. Examples include the INPS 6 securitisation, the Finmeccanica 20-year bond issue, the Telecom Italia refinancing, the Banca Nazionale di Lavoro two most important securitisation transactions and the ISPA 30-year bond issue. In 2004 Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking was granted the status of Primary Dealer by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and last month it acted as Joint Bookrunner of the latest €5 billion 15-year bond issue for the Republic of Italy.

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SOCIETE GENERALE
A French corporation with share
capital of EUR 550,781,598.75
552 120 222 RCS PARIS

The Société Générale Group has been present in Italy since 1967 and currently employs more than 1,500 staff active in its core businesses of Corporate and Investment Banking, Global Investment Management and Specialised Financial Services.

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Société Générale Group

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs more than 103,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking & Financial Services: Société Générale serves more than 19 million individual customers worldwide.
- Global Investment Management & Services: Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 1,418 billion, December 2005) and under management (EUR 386 billion, December 2005).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Société Générale ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially-responsible investment indexes.

www.socgen.com

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking

Present in over 45 countries across Europe, the Americas and Asia, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking is a reference bank specialising in:

- Euro capital markets. A top ten player in debt and equity segments (bonds, securitisations, syndicated loans, equity-linked and equity issues).
- Derivatives. Among the world leaders in equity derivatives and in many interest rate, credit, foreign exchange and commodities derivatives.
- Structured finance. A worldwide leader in export, project and structured commodity finance.

Combining innovation and quality of execution, Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking provides corporates, financial institutions and investors with value-added integrated financial solutions. www.sgcib.com
