



CORPORATE &
INVESTMENT BANKING

Press Release

London, 8 June 2004

SG CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANKING IS GRANTED SPECIALIST STATUS IN ITALY

SG Corporate & Investment Banking (SG CIB) has been appointed "Specialista in Titoli di Stato" (Specialist in Italian Government Bonds) by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Italy. SG CIB was granted this prestigious status following a twelve-month test period.

Specialists in Italian Government Bonds are Primary Dealers, operating in Regulated Markets, who are obliged to meet tighter requirements, in terms of both subscription in Government Bond Auctions and activity on Regulated Secondary Markets.

This appointment is a very important milestone for SG CIB as part of its continuing development strategy in Italy and across the Sovereign sector. SG CIB is already Primary Dealer for Belgium, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands. This new appointment will also enable SG CIB to enhance its capacity to better service its client base on the European government bond market.

"Becoming a Specialist in Italy is a firm acknowledgement of our commitment to maintaining high quality relations with the Italian Treasury. Since 2002, Italy has been at the heart of SG CIB's European strategy for organic growth. In addition, this status is completely in line with our pan-European development and global strategy within the sovereign sector." commented Zeina Bignier, Head of Supra, Sovereign & Agencies Debt Origination at SG CIB. "We had already made a breakthrough in the market in October 2003, when we were appointed joint-bookrunner of a EUR 3.15 billion re-opening of the Republic of Italy's 5-year inflation-linked BTPEi. This deal highlighted once more SG CIB expertise in the inflation-linked bond market".

"For the last two years, SG CIB has been developing an Italian origination platform in Debt Capital Markets covering corporates, financial institutions and the public sector. The Specialist appointment in Italy reinforces our credibility across all market sectors and products" declared Michele Cortese, responsible for debt origination in Italy for SG CIB.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE GROUP

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- **Retail Banking & Financial Services:** Société Générale serves more than 15 million retail customers worldwide.
- **Asset Management, Private Banking & Securities Services:** Société Générale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (approximately USD 1200 billion) and under management (EUR 300 billion, March 2004).
- **Corporate & Investment Banking:** SG CIB ranks among the leading banks worldwide in euro capital markets, derivatives and structured finance.

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SG CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANKING

SG CIB is the Corporate and Investment Banking arm of the Société Générale Group. Present in over 45 countries across Europe, the Americas and Asia, SG CIB is a bank of reference 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, SG CIB provides corporates, financial institutions and investors with value-added integrated financial solutions.

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