

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Banca Intesa further strengthens its capital position*

**Banca Intesa boosts capital**

**Belgrade (December 15)** – Intesa Sanpaolo increased the capital of Banca Intesa Belgrade by a further 130 million euros. The fresh capital will further strengthen the position of Banca Intesa as the best capitalized bank in the local market with a capital adequacy ratio well above the prescribed level, thus reinforcing its potential for recording further growth and providing active support for the economy and citizens.

“There is no doubt that the recapitalization of Banca Intesa is very important news, not only for the domestic banking system, but also for the entire economy. Our parent banking group Intesa Sanpaolo has once again confirmed its long-term commitment to the Serbian market and its strategic dedication to further develop operations in our country,” said Draginja Djuric, President of Banca Intesa Executive Board.

By boosting its capital, Banca Intesa will create additional conditions for continued growth of lending activity, which will certainly help ease the negative effects of the global financial crisis on the domestic economy.

“We believe it is very important for the entire banking sector to provide full support to all the segments of the economy and the state at this moment in order to define a joint strategy that would address existing challenges in the most successful way. In this way, we, as the leading bank in the market, confirm our readiness to take an active role in this process. Our business activities will continue to focus on developing operations with both citizens and the economy,” Draginja Djuric added.

Since it established presence in the Serbian market in 2005, Intesa Sanpaolo has invested more than one billion euros, while the latest capital increase of Banca Intesa puts the parent group’s direct investments in Serbia at 1.2 billion euros. Banca Intesa is the leading bank in the local market, accounting for over 14% of the banking



sector's total assets. The bank's total loan portfolio exceeds 2.6 billion euros, or nearly 17% of all approved loans in Serbia.

\*

\*

\*