

PRESS RELEASE

New 5-year EBRD credit line for Banca Intesa

€30 Million for SME Financing

Belgrade, 4th December 2012 - Banca Intesa has insured a new €30 million five-year senior loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), intended for its SME clients. Funds from this credit line are approved to the Bank's clients as revolving loans and working assets loans, investment loans with maximum repayment term of up to five years and the grace period of up to a year.

“Ensuring favourable sources of financing for small and medium-sized enterprises through international credit lines is an additional confirmation of Banca Intesa's strategic commitment to providing active contribution and incentive for the development of this segment of the domestic economy. Small and medium-sized businesses will be the key driver of Serbia's economic recovery and the main vehicle of employment and export growth, which is why we need to offer them full support, especially in conditions of extended economic crisis and market changes which this sector is particularly susceptible to”, said Darko Popović, member of the Executive Board and head of the Corporate Division of Banca Intesa.

The new credit line by which the EBRD continues to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in south-eastern Europe at a time when recovery from the crisis is still uncertain represents a continuation of cooperation with Banca Intesa in the field of loan financing of this sector. Including the new €30 million loan, EBRD has so far approved credit lines to the Bank in the total amount of €84 million euros. €10 million credit line for financing energy efficiency investments undertaken by Serbian companies was approved in 2009, topped up by €4 million the following year, and an additional €30 million credit line for SME loans. In 2011, €10 million was extended for the support of SME competitiveness.

Earlier this month, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the EBRD announced a joint commitment to invest €30 billion in the financial and corporate sectors in central, eastern and southern-eastern Europe (CESEE), and the EBRD will focus especially on SEE, for 2013-14. On this occasion the presidents of the three institutions stated: “Restarting and consolidating growth is imperative as the economies strive to narrow the gap in living standards with the more mature markets of the EU.”

Member of the international group Intesa Sanpaolo, Banca Intesa is dedicated to small and medium-sized enterprises and is focused on further improving its leading position, bolstering risk management procedures in relation to SMEs and ensuring continuing good portfolio quality.

Since the beginning of its operations in Serbia, the EBRD has invested over €3 billion in about 200 projects, mobilizing about €4 billion for those projects from other sources of financing.

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