

## **Ivan Šramko, the former Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, joins Intesa Sanpaolo Group as advisor for the CEE and SEE regions**

**Milan (March 7<sup>th</sup> 2011)** – Ivan Šramko, the former Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, has joined Intesa Sanpaolo Group as advisor for the CEE and SEE regions. In his new role he will represent Intesa Sanpaolo in the Boards of Hungary's CIB Bank, Banca Intesa Beograd, Privredna Banka Zagreb, Slovenian Banka Koper and Intesa Sanpaolo Banka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ivan Šramko has held the office as the Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia from 1 January 2005. Prior to that, he acted as Vice-governor for three years.

Under his guidance, the Euro changeover in Slovakia has passed smoothly and the Euro adoption was very successful, triggering several immediate benefits such as stability, increased confidence and the highest ratings in the Region. Slovakia has shown great capacity to exit the crisis, regaining the leadership in Europe as growth rate in 2010 and it is seen to keep the position also this year, by far outstanding Western Europe countries.

“We are very proud to welcome Mr Šramko in our Group” said Mr Giovanni Boccolini, Head of the International Subsidiary Banks Division. “With his deep knowledge of the CEE and SEE regions, international experience and outstanding track record, he is the ideal choice for Intesa Sanpaolo. We do believe that our international activities will benefit from his skills thanks to his widely recognized regulatory expertise, business knowledge and commitment”.

As the governor of the Slovak Central Bank, he was a member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank, Governor in the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and Alternate Governor in the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

Moreover, in February 2010 he took up the office of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) based in Paris.

### ***About Intesa Sanpaolo***

*Intesa Sanpaolo ranks among the top banking groups in the Euro zone in the retail, corporate and wealth management business areas.*

*Further to a well-spread network of 5,900 branches in Italy, where it offers a wide range of services to about 11.3 million customers, Intesa Sanpaolo runs international activities focused in Central-Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean basin, where it operates in 13 countries through its retail and commercial banks with approximately 1,800 branches and 8.6 million customers.*