Fondi italiani
per le infrastrutture
SGR

PRESS RELEASE

Milan, December 19th 2007. The EUR 1.5 billion minimum investment target for F2i has been reached and exceeded.
After only 4 months since Italy's central bank authorized the Fund's Regulations, F2i is about to finalize the start-up of Italy's first Fund focused on infrastructure investments.

That is what came out today during a Board of Directors meeting, convened by President Salvatore Rebecchini, where CEO Vito Gamberale, illustrated the procedure leading to an overall EUR 1.55 billion share collection through capital market listing, reaching the so-called First Closing stage, which actually opens up the investment activity.

In particular – said the CEO during his presentation – the regulations allow 18 months from the Bank of Italy's authorisation, to finalize the collection of closed-end securities funds.
In the case of F2i, the approval was awarded in late August 2007, and, after the First Closing, February 2009 is the deadline to finalize the collection.
Specifically, the First Closing has mainly involved the Italian market so far, while the Closing - expected by 2008 – should be devoted to share collection across international markets as well as to the domestic market finalization.
Through the subsequent capital collection, F2i aims at achieving, and possibly exceeding, its EUR 2 billion target level.

Both SGR's partners (the so called "sponsors" of the savings management company) and other market investors ("Limited partners") have invested in F2i.
SGR's partners have subscribed approximately EUR 1 billion, and include, with an approximately 14 percent significant though equal stake, Italy's two major banks - Unicredit and Intesa San Paolo; Cassa Depositi e Prestiti; as well as two foreign primary banks that have traditionally been very active in Italy, i.e. Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch.
Other sponsors are seven banking Foundations (Cariplo, MPS, CRT, Bologna, Cuneo, Forlì and Padova) that represent about 15% of the Fund, along with two national insurance Funds (Inarcassa and Cassa dei Geometri) that control about 4% of the Fund.

In addition to SGR's partners, F2i's shares have also been subscribed by approximately 30 investors, five of which as Core Investors, having subscribed a minimum EUR 60 million-pledge. Core Investors account for approximately 20% of the Fund, and take part in the Advisory Committee, whereas all other subscribers take part in the initiative's governance within the framework of the Fund Assembly.

Investors include former bank Foundations, with approximately 9% of the Fund, including, amongst others, the Banco di Sardegna Foundation (Core Investor), the Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze Foundation, the Cassa di Risparmio di Parma Foundation.

Furthermore, National Insurance Funds and Pension Funds investors such as Cassa di Previdenza e Assistenza Forense (Core Investor), and other Funds, such as ENPAPI, ENPACL and Cassa del Notariato, have also joined, with over 6% of total collection.
The insurance industry has also joined by subscribing F2i shares with more than 5% of market investors including two European groups, such as Assicurazioni Generali (Core Investor) and Aviva.
Finally, banks' subscription account for 8% of the market collection, including Banca Popolare di Milano, the Credit Agricole Group's Calyon (both Core Investors).

On the whole, the nature of the subscribers is particularly consistent with the characteristics of the Fund's long-term investments in regulated sectors.
At this stage of share collection, F2i has already been Italy's largest fund and amongst Europe's top funds focused on the infrastructure sector.

It should be reminded that F2i is a fund that only focuses on investments in Italian companies that manage existing infrastructures (ranging from energy to transports; from telecommunications to fairs, parking, airports, etc.), with established cash flows, but also with a potential to act on long-term industrial management to create value and enhance business efficiency.
Therefore, 20 percent of the Fund is set aside to new infrastructures, and another 20 percent is set aside to take business opportunities outside of our country.
In both cases, any initiative taken by F2i is expected to be mainly related to existing, up-and-running Italian infrastructures.
F2i will provide its investors with high risk diversification, given that the investment level in one company should not exceed 15% of the Fund's overall assets.
F2i aims at either acquiring a majority stake of the target companies, or a qualified minority stake with specific rights of governance. Indeed, the fund aims at directly contributing to the industrial management of the companies acquired, in order to enhance their efficiency and promote new services over the medium and long term.
Furthermore, it should be pointed out that most of infrastructural assets constituting investment targets are based on regulated tariffs, evolving according to such specific parameters as efficiency recovery and inflation.
As far as the financial leverage is concerned, while the Fund may not run up debts directly, in compliance with the applicable law, it provides for prudential debts for subsidiary companies management.

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