

**News release**

## Banco Popolare: Financial Instruments issued in favor of the Ministry for Economy and Finance

*Verona, 31 July 2009* – Today, Banco Popolare finalized the issuance of Financial Instruments, under art. 12 of LD 185/08, in favor of the Ministry for Economy and Finance, corresponding to a total amount of one billion and four-hundred and fifty millions (euro 1,450,000,000.00).

The issue and subscription of these Instruments, approved with Decree dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 by the Minister of Economy and Finance (MEF), are connected with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Banco Popolare and MEF pursuant to art. 2, paragraph 2, of Ministerial Decree dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, and shall extensively expand the lending capabilities of Gruppo Banco Popolare towards business companies and households.

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