

News release

Banco Popolare: “Tremonti bonds” fully redeemed

Verona, 14 March 2011 – Today, Banco Popolare has finalized the complete redemption of the Financial Instruments, provided for under art. 12 of LD 185/08, converted into law n. 2 of 28 January 2009, i.e., the so called “Tremonti Bonds”, issued on 31 July 2009 to be subscribed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, for a total amount of 1,450 million euro. At the same time, the residual interest payments accrued between 1 July 2010 and 14 March 2011, amounting to 86,443,836 euro, have been paid off.

The redemption of the “Tremonti bonds” was carried out in line with announced expectations, thanks to the contribution of resources coming from the capital strengthening achieved by Banco Popolare last February, which closed with the full subscription of the n. 1,122,980,404 shares under the offer, corresponding to a capital increase of about 1,988 million euro, without the intervention of the underwriting syndicate.

The contribution received from the “Tremonti Bonds” proved valuable, as it enabled Banco Popolare to keep on supporting the economy of its local territories even at the peak of the global economic crisis, contributing to an uninterrupted access to credit for households and small and medium-sized enterprises. Our financial data bear witness to this endeavor: in 2009 loans to households increased by 9%, loans to small businesses by 5%; in the first nine months of 2010 loans to households grew by 7.2% and those to small enterprises by 7.1%. This same endeavor shall continue also in the future to be the linchpin of the operations and development of the Group banks.

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