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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Subject: closing Banca Carige operation**

Today, the transaction for the sale to BPER of the FITD's and the Voluntary Scheme's shareholdings in Banca Carige was closed and finalized, within the contractual terms, for a sum equal to 1 euro, and involving FITD's capital contribution of 530 million euro to Carige.

The agreement was carried out in the strategic interest of the banking system. The success of the operation was made possible only by the continued and close cooperation of all parties involved.

As part of the transaction, BPER also acquired the subordinated bonds issued by Banca Carige, for the nominal sum of 5 million euro, and held by the Voluntary Scheme.

FITD, as Head of the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, performs a central role in managing difficulties that occur in its member banks, availing of the financial resources provided by them.

The long and complex negotiations leading to the BPER-Carige successful conclusion confirm the DGS as a proven safety net player to guarantee depositors and all stakeholders and be instrumental to financial stability.

