

Joint Press Release

CATTOLICA SELLS 49% OF CIRA TO ICCREA HOLDING (CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT BANKING)

Verona – Rome, 2 April 2010. As part of implementation of the strategic partnership agreement between **Cattolica Assicurazioni** and **Iccrea Holding**, today the two companies signed the agreement for the sale to Iccrea Holding of 49% of CIRA's share capital. CIRA will subsequently be renamed **BCC Assicurazioni** and will become the company with the task of exploiting the prospects of the P&C (Property & Casualty) bancassurance segment and of providing co-operative credit banks ("Banche di Credito Cooperativo" – BCC), rural banks ("Casse Rurali" – CR), their shareholder members and customers with innovative products and services for households and businesses.

The amount of the transaction is equal to CIRA's shareholder equity after sale to Cattolica Assicurazioni of the previously existing business division.

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The deal's efficacy is subject to the issue of authorizations by the relevant authorities.

*The **CATTOLICA ASSICURAZIONI GROUP**, consisting of Cattolica Assicurazioni, listed on the Milan stock exchange, and of another 11 insurance companies, is sixth in the ranking of the main Italian insurance companies. The group ended 2009 with consolidated net income of € 68 million and total premiums, including investment contracts, of € 4,357 million. As at 31 December 2009 the group's agencies had reached a total of 1,463. Bank branches selling the group's products numbered 5,503 while there were 1,277 financial advisors, 290 brokers and 419 pension advisors.*

***Iccrea Holding SpA** (whose capital is owned by co-operative credit banks (banche di credito cooperativo – BCC)) heads the Iccrea Banking Group, i.e. the group of companies that provides the BCC with a competitive overall offering for their 5 million customers and comprises the companies providing products and services for the operations of the BCC and rural banks (casse rurali – CR) (Institutional segment) and their elective customers – SMEs (Corporate segment) and households (Retail segment).*

As at 30.11.2009, there were 426 co-operative credit banks (BCC) and rural banks (CR) active in Italy, with 4,127 branches. They were directly present in 2,647 municipalities and 98 provinces. In 549 municipalities they were the only bank. As at the same date the BCC-CR system had € 145 billion of direct funding (+8.7% YoY) while loans had topped € 124 billion (+8.5% YoY). Equity amounted to € 18.6 billion (+7.5% YoY).

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