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## **SMES AND INVESTORS LAUNCH NEW MARKET, AIM ITALIA- MERCATO ALTERNATIVO DEL CAPITALE**

*-The SME Advisory Board and Borsa Italiana launch a new market dedicated to Small and Medium Enterprises*

SME Advisory Board and Borsa Italiana launched AIM Italia- Mercato Alternativo del Capitale. This new market will combine the AIM Italia and MAC markets in Italy and will enhance Borsa Italiana's listing options for SMEs. Creating greater choice for companies, the new AIM Italia – Mercato Alternativo del Capitale has been built in response to feedback from companies, investors and brokers.

The new MTF (Multilateral Trading Facility) aims to simplify access to capital for SMEs. A balanced and appropriate regulation regime is in place, ensuring good governance from companies and the security of wardship for minority investors.

AIM Italia – Mercato Alternativo del Capitale incorporates the strengths of both MAC and AIM Italia markets. The market includes MAC's simple listing process, shorter IPO timetable and minimum trading share. From AIM Italia it offers an international environment for growth together with a dedicated and specialized community of professionals and the opportunity to reach a wider group of both professional and retail investors.

The birth of AIM Italia - Mercato Alternativo del Capitale represents the first important result of the systemic work conducted by the SME Advisory Board. The Board was founded in October 2010 to develop Borsa Italiana's markets for SMEs and is presided over by Vincenzo Boccia, Chairman of Piccola Industria of Confindustria and made up of representatives from enterprises, banks, investors and market dealers.

**Vincenzo Boccia, Chairman of the Advisory Board says:**

**“This is only the first step taken by the Advisory Board. We will continue to work on the development of SME markets because they represent an important element for the growth of Italy, being able to create employment and innovation and ensuring a sustainable growth in the mid to long term”**

**Raffaele Jerusalmi comments:**

**“Having an efficient market, where capital demand and supply can meet each other, represents an important starting point. It is vital to make a strong systemic commitment to support Italian SMEs development in a positive and structured way, through a number of activities, including boosting the development of local institutional investors and stimulating the public saving inflow in the sector. It's important to help companies to use equity as an instrument to accelerate their growth, helping to consolidate the attention of banks towards listed companies”**

The work of the Advisory Board in the coming months will be focused on these topics.

**For further information, please contact:**

Federica Marotti/Anna Mascioni      Media Relations +39 02 72426.212  
[media.relations@borsaitaliana.it](mailto:media.relations@borsaitaliana.it)

## **About Borsa Italiana:**

Borsa Italiana S.p.A. is one of Europe's largest and most established stock exchanges with 331 companies listed across its markets. The Italian Exchange operates markets trading in Italian equities, bonds and derivatives. Markets include the MIV and STAR segments as well as IDEM, MOT, ETFPlus and AIM Italia and MAC for small cap companies. Since October 2007 Borsa Italiana has been part of the international diversified exchange business, London Stock Exchange Group.

## **About London Stock Exchange Group:**

London Stock Exchange Group (LSE.L) sits at the heart of the world's financial community. The Group operates a broad range of international equity, bond and derivatives markets, including London Stock Exchange; Borsa Italiana; MTS, Europe's leading fixed income market; and Turquoise, offering UK and Russian derivatives trading, pan-European and US lit and dark equity trading. Through its markets, the Group offers international business unrivalled access to Europe's capital markets.

The Group is a leading developer of high performance trading platforms and capital markets software and also offers its customers around the world access and an extensive range of real-time and reference data products and market-leading post-trade services. The Group is also home to a world leading index provider FTSE, which creates and manages of over 200,000 equity, bond and alternative asset class indices.

Headquartered in London, United Kingdom with significant operations in Italy and Sri Lanka, the Group employs around 1,850 people.

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