

25th November - 20/2021

Bulletin of Italian Finance

SPOTLIGHT



**Banche
Assicurazioni
Finanza**

Italian Banking Insurance and Finance Federation

1. Summing up Italy's G20 Presidency

The Singapore FinTech Festival, which ran from 8 to 12 November, provided an opportunity for Ignazio Visco, the Bank of Italy's governor, to sum up what the Italian presidency had achieved. Speaking in a video recording, transmitted on 10 November, Mr Visco was able to point to numerous successes. "The most visible result probably concerns taxation. The July agreement reforms the architecture of international taxation, addressing the issues posed in this field by globalisation and digitalisation," he noted. The agreement set rules for the reallocation of taxing rights on excess profits of the largest multinationals and a common framework for the introduction of a minimum level of taxation. The Italian Presidency also logged progress in helping the weakest economies to tackle the impact of the pandemic, with extension of debt-servicing suspension and a general allocation IMF SDRs.

Other noteworthy results include: relaunching the Sustainable Finance Study Group and transforming it into a permanent G20 working group; the promotion of the development of a global baseline for disclosing and reporting sustainability information; the launching, in partnership with the Bank for International Settlements, of a new G20 TechSprint; the delivery of policy options by the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, co-chaired by Italy and Russia, for tackling the challenges posed by digitalisation; and endorsement of the Financial Stability Board's package of policy proposals to enhance the stability of money market funds. The Italian G20 Presidency's agenda benefited from widespread recognition of its relevance. Mr Visco concluded his address: "Our progress demonstrates the importance of overcoming our political divisions for the well-being of our people." In a recent Webinar with the participation of Emiliano Tornese (European Commission), Febaf and its members discussed not only the most relevant G20 outcomes, but also the FeBAF follow up action.

The logo for G20 Italia 2021 is centered on a dark blue background. It features the text 'G20' in a large, white, serif font, with 'ITALIA' in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font below it. Underneath 'ITALIA' are the numbers '2 · 0 · 2 · 1' in the same yellow, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed within a thin yellow circular border. Below the logo, a horizontal bar displays the colors of the Italian flag: green, white, and red.

G20
ITALIA
2 · 0 · 2 · 1

2. Private Capital Association focuses on the Simple Investment Firm (SIF)

AIFI (the private equity, venture capital and private debt association) continues to highlight the importance of channelling finance to Italy's SMEs, and to start-ups in particular. On 10 November, the association published an update of a paper on Società di Investimento Semplice (SISs or SIFs) for which a working group is drawing up standard documentation for members to use when requesting authorisation for establishing such firms and when dealing with regulatory bodies. Unsurprisingly, the working group comprises experts from leading legal and tax firms. In the five-page explanatory paper, AIFI notes that this form of special investment vehicle was introduced by legislation passed in June 2019. The aim is to provide greater financial resources to Italian SMEs through venture capital, thereby boosting their growth and competitiveness. SIFs' sole role is the direct investment of their funds in SMEs that are not quoted on regulated markets and which are seeking seed financing, start-up financing and early-stage financing. As fixed capital investment firms, SIFs are subject to the EU's Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive and must obtain authorisation from the Bank of Italy and be registered on the appropriate roll.

AIFI's paper provides further details of the rules governing SIFs, which include share capital of at least €50,000, and systems of governance and control that ensure healthy and prudent management and observance of the rules. SIFs may raise capital both with professional and non-professional investors, the instruments employed being agreed with Consob, the market regulator, according to the profile of the target market. Crowdfunding and online fund-raising are permitted. Slimmer organisation, lower costs and lighter touch regulation are among the benefits for managers, as well as tax advantages. In the closing section to its paper, AIFI points to the fact that regulated vehicles offer, as well as reputational advantage, the opportunity to attract both institutional and public investors, and high-level retail investors (business angels).

AIFI

**Italian Private Equity, Venture Capital
and Private Debt Association**

3. A record quarter for Assoreti

The value of financial products and investment services distributed by members of Assoreti (the association of investment advisory firms with networks of tied agents) reached a record level at the end of the third quarter. In an announcement on 10 November, Assoreti said that total assets at 30 September amounted to €756.8 billion, an increase of 1.6 per cent on the first-half figure and an advance of 20.1 per cent on 30 September 2020, when total assets were €630.1 billion. The value of mutual funds held in savers' portfolios rose year-on-year from €202.8 billion to

Commenting on the record results, Paolo Molesini, Assoreti's chairman, said, "The constant growth of assets and market share are confirmation that the bank-network is the winning model in private banking."

€245.7 billion (plus 21.2 per cent), foreign open funds playing the key part with their total value increasing from €150.2 billion to €185.4 billion. Also a major slice of portfolios, insurance and pensions products recorded total growth in value of 18.9 per cent year-on-year, from €173.8 billion at 30 September 2020 to €206.5 billion at this year, with unit linked products accounting for 49.3 per cent of the total.



4. Insurance rebound

Business in Italy's insurance industry has bounced back to pre-Covid levels. Speaking on 11 November at a conference organised by *Il Sole-24 Ore*, the business newspaper, Maria Bianca Farina, the president of ANIA, said that the insurers' association expects premium income at year-end will be close to €145 billion, an increase of 7 per cent on 2020. She noted that the strong performance was due to results in life business. Ms Farina added: "Having weakened slightly during the opening months of the pandemic, solvency has now returned to previously high levels. Despite the massive shock, solvency in the insurance industry remains intact."



5. Italian women in finance

Maria Bianca Farina, president of ANIA (the insurers' association), Francesca Palisi head of corporate advisory at ABI (the banking association) and Roberta D'Apice head of legal services at Assogestioni (the fund managers' association) were among the fifteen members of the jury that decided on six 2020/2021 awards for female talent and gender diversity in Italian finance. The categories considered in this edition, the third, are those of CFO, fund manager, banker, insurer and FinTech, together with a champion for diversity employer. Among the other jury members were Jill Morris, Britain's first woman ambassador to Italy and Alessandra Perrazzelli, deputy governor of the Bank of Italy. After last year's cancellation, caused by the pandemic, these recognitions of the large and growing contribution of women to Italian finance will be announced at an awards ceremony in Milan on 26 November.



In Brief

FeBAF's strategy. Speaking at an online meeting of the federation's executive council earlier this month, Innocenzo Cipolletta outlined the aims of his chairmanship during 2022. Internationally, FeBAF will continue to strengthen relations with the principal European financial communities, while on the domestic front, working groups for SMEs and institutional investors will continue to assist associates in reaching common positions on industrial policy. Mr Cipolletta also wants the federation to focus on finance's role in social protection and climate-change infrastructure: working groups on these issues will be activated.

Focus on Artificial Intelligence. Continuing its programme of innovation workshops, on 16 November *Bancaforte*, the tech-publication offshoot of ABI (the banking association), looked at the opportunities offered by AI and machine learning in credit

risk management. Introducing the workshop, Flavio Padovan, *Bancaforte*'s editor, drew attention to the accelerating use of AI in banking. Among the speakers was Alessandro Piva, head of the AI monitor at Milan's polytechnic university, who underlined finance's vanguard role in developing practical applications for AI.

Second post-grad course in private banking and wealth management. AIPB (the private banking association) has invited new graduates in economics and appropriate subjects to apply for places on a masters course that will begin on 1 March and run until the end of next year. The first three months of classroom and online learning for the 35 successful applicants will be followed by six months of paid internship with a major bank. Launching the course on 8 November, Antonella Massari, the association's secretary-general, underlined the need for new blood and new skills in the sector. She added, "Spreading a financial culture and knowledge of the role of private banking is fundamental for growth. Our country needs new skills as much as private investment."

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REGISTRATION

FeBAF organizes:

[Rome Investment Forum](#)

2nd December 2021

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Click on the logo to follow us and keep up to date.



Rome Investment Forum 2021

In co-operation with **afme** / **Bloomberg**
Finance for Europe

2 December 2021



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ANTONIO PATUELLI

Chairman Italian Banking
Association (ABI)



MARIA BIANCA FARINA

Chairwoman Italian Association
of Insurance Companies (ANIA)



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Italian Banking Insurance and Finance Federation

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