PRESS RELEASE

Public Takeover Bid on the shares of Anima SGR: Banca Italia authorizes Bipiemme to acquire control of Anima SGR

In regards to the voluntary full Public Takeover Bid on the shares of Anima SGR announced by Bipiemme on 23 September 2008, we would like to report that Banca d'Italia authorized the Bank to acquire a controlling interest in Anima SGR or, alternatively, to increase its existing interest beyond the threshold of 33% of share capital.

The Bid is scheduled to begin in December 2008, contingent upon approval from CONSOB.

Milan, 28 November 2008

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