

Press release

Launch of the partnership between SACE and illimity Bank to accelerate the sustainable transition of Italian businesses

SACE strengthens its commitment to supporting the country's ecological transition thanks to its increasingly digital, flexible and accessible Green Guarantee

illimity Bank continues its progress in assisting companies with their ESG development

Rome, 12 December 2023 – SACE and illimity Bank strengthen their collaboration with the aim of accelerating Italy's sustainable transition, supporting the Country's businesses in their investments to reduce environmental impact. The partnership will enable illimity Bank to make the SACE guarantee available to companies for use in their plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution prevention and control, the protection of water and marine resources, the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable mobility and the circular economy, in line with the Green New Deal and the European Union taxonomy.

Businesses – limited companies with a turnover of up to 500 million euro – will be able to benefit from **SACE's 80% Green Guarantee**, granted at market conditions through a fully standardised and digitalised process.

To make the Green Guarantee even more accessible, SACE has simplified and further digitalised the process, improving the customer experience thanks, *inter alia*, to a dedicated portal. Among the innovations is an increase in financing flexibility, including the possibility of multiple disbursements. The new means of accessing the Green Guarantee is a further important step in the set of digital transformation goals that SACE is pursuing in line with the strategy and objectives of its INSIEME 2025 business plan.

In addition, the changes made to the instrument will facilitate and accelerate the signing of new green conventions.

"Businesses that invest in sustainability are more competitive and resilient and this holds in particular for SMEs, which are a pillar of our INSIEME 2025 business plan", stressed Daniela Cataudella, SACE's Managing Director Digital Business. "With our Green Guarantee, we in SACE have already supported over 500 projects in Italy having a total value of 12 billion euro and are daily committed to supporting investments that are beneficial in accelerating sustainable transition processes in all areas and sectors. A commitment that we are putting into practice with the leading players in the system and the Italian

financial institutions, such as illimity Bank, with whom this present arrangement can be added to the many partnerships already in place, in order to strengthen our support for ecological transition in Italy”.

“illimity is a sustainable native company since from its very beginnings it has followed a process of integrating ESG objectives into its business, governance and process models”, commented Stefano Ortolano, Head of Crossover & Acquisition Finance in illimity. “The approach we are taking makes us a reference partner throughout Italy for SMEs intending to achieve and/or improve their sustainability objectives. The agreement with SACE therefore fits perfectly into our strategy, enabling us to further extend the services provided in support of sustainable transition that lie at the heart of our growth plans, which are being given a renewed focus for 2024 and impact not only businesses but also the local area as a whole”.

SACE is an Italian insurance & finance group controlled directly by the Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance, specialising in supporting businesses and the national economy through a wide range of tools and solutions to improve competitiveness in Italy and worldwide. For more than forty-five years the SACE Group has been the reference partner for Italian companies that export and grow on international markets. Through its financial guarantees It also supports the banking system in facilitating companies’ access to credit, in order to assist their liquidity and investments for competitiveness and sustainability as part of Italy’s Green New Deal, starting from the domestic market. The Group is present worldwide with 13 offices in target countries for Made in Italy, whose aim is to build relations with leading local counterparts and, through dedicated financial instruments, facilitate business with Italian companies. With a portfolio of insured operations and guaranteed investments worth 164 billion euro, SACE, together with its subsidiaries - SACE FCT, which operates in the factoring sector, SACE BT, focusing on credit, surety bonds and property damage insurance, and SACE SRV, specialising in data collection and information asset management - serves over 40 thousand companies, mainly SMEs, supporting their growth in Italy and in around 200 other countries throughout the world.

Media relations

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illimity Bank S.p.A.

illimity is the high-tech banking group founded and headed by Corrado Passera that was created with the aim of responding to specific market needs by way of an innovative and specialist business model. More specifically, illimity extends financing to high-potential SMEs, purchases distressed corporate loans and services these through its platform ARECneprix and provides digital direct banking services through illimitybank.com. illimity SGR, which sets up and manages alternative investment funds, the first of which dedicated to UTP loans, is also a member of the Group. The story of the illimity Group began in January 2018 with the launch of the special purpose acquisition company SPAXS S.p.A., which ended with a record 600 million euro being raised on the market. SPAXS subsequently acquired Banca Interprovinciale S.p.A., with the resulting merger between the two giving rise to “illimity Bank S.p.A.” which has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 5 March 2019 (ticker “ILTY”), first on the MTA exchange and since September 2020 on the STAR segment. The banking group, headquartered in Milan, can already count on over 910 employees and ended the third quarter of 2023 with assets of around 6.8 billion euro.

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