

Montebelluna, 25 febbraio 2009

VENETO BANKA INAUGURATES A NEW BRANCH IN RIJEKA (FIUME) IN THE HISTORIC PALAZZO JADRAN

Tomorrow at 11.30 the ceremony will take place in the presence of senior managers of the bank and local organisations

The new branch of Veneto Banka in Rijeka (Fiume) officially opens its doors for business, in the historic Palazzo Jadran, one of the architectural jewels of the city, which also houses the Italian Consulate.

This is a prestigious building for its location – along the wharf of the historic port and just a stone's throw from the city's main shopping area – and for its historic and architectural value.

The imposing building was constructed in 1887 as the head offices of the leading Hungarian maritime company Adria, at a time when Rijeka was establishing itself as a significant commercial port in competition with Trieste.

Today it is owned by and is the head office of the flagship maritime company of Croatia, Jadrolinija, which after careful restoration work have returned the building to its former glory before leasing some space.

The office – which has already been operating for two months, after transferring from the old site in via Adamiceva – occupies an area of 200 sq m of the ground floor of Palazzo Jadran and faces the seafront.

The inauguration of the new branch is planned for 11.30 tomorrow. The ceremony will be attended by the Deputy Mayor of Rijeka Tripo Grahovac, the head of the Administrative Sector of the Maritime and Commercial Activity, Nikola Mendrila, and the Italian Consul in Rijeka, Fulvio Rustico.

Doing the honours for the company - in addition to the Head of the branch, Gordana Lisac and his team – there will be: The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Veneto Banka Gian Quinto Perissinotto, the President of Veneto Banca Holding Flavio Trinca, the Deputy Director General of Veneto Banca Holding Mauro Gallea, and the Head of the Foreign Banks division Athos Varusio.

Veneto Banka bought the took its current name in 2007, one year after being taken over by the Veneto Banca Group.

As well as the branch in Rijeka, today the number of branches totals 12, spread between Zagreb – site of the registered offices and the Management - Crickvenica, Dubrovnik, Krapina, Pula (Pola), Split (Spalato) e Varazdin.

The Veneto Banca Group, controlled by Veneto Banca Holding, is one of the top 15 banking groups in Italy.

In Italy the Group operates in the North East and in Rome with Veneto Banca, and in the North West with Banca Popolare di Intra and in the south with Banca Meridiana.

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In central-eastern Europe the Group controls, in addition to Veneto Banka, Banca Italiano di Sviluppo in Albania, Banca Italo Romena and Italo Romena Leasing in Romania and Eximbank in Moldova.

"Italy is Croatia's number one trading partner," explains the President of Veneto Banca Holding, Flavio Trinca "and for historic and economic reasons, Istria and Dalmazia have long had close ties with our country, in particular with the North East, at whose heart, in the province of Treviso, are the head offices of Veneto Banca Holding."

"The Veneto Banca Group," continues Mr Trinca, "is an organisation made up of banks which are deeply rooted in their respective communities. Each of these has been given clear goals by Veneto Banca Holding: to serve the local community ethically and responsibly, creating value over time for the shareholders, clients and staff. It is a mission which Veneto Banca shares completely and which it is committed to applying across all the cities in which it operates."

"Our main clients are small- and medium-sized companies," highlights the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Veneto Banka, Gian Quinto Perissinotto. "Whether they be Croatian, Italian or from other countries. However, we are gearing up to provide a full range of banking services, to be able to provide the best possible service to private individuals and families. We will do this by taking advantage of two important commercial levers: the intimate knowledge of Croatia that our local staff enjoy, a fundamental requirement for understanding local needs, and the support of the Veneto Banca Group, a dynamic and rapidly expanding organisation, which enables us to offer our clients innovative and competitive products."

"With the transfer of our branch in Rijeka to the prestigious and centrally located Palazzo Jadran, next to the Italian Consulate," concludes Mr Perissinotto, "we wish to give a clear signal: we are alongside the Italian institutions to serve Italians who live and work in this part of Croatia and we aim to become the point of reference for the growing number of Croatian companies working with Italy."

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The historic Palazzo Jadran at the end of the 1800's along the wharf of the historic port of Rijeka (Fiume).