

QUARTERLY ISSUANCE PROGRAMME

FOURTH QUARTER 2000

The Ministry of the Treasury announced important changes at the beginning of this year concerning the three-month BOT issuing policy. The three-month BOT is primarily a liquidity management tool and as such it is aimed at smoothing out temporal mismatches that may arise between cash inflows and outflows.

The changes announced involve the issuance of bills also with maturities other than the traditional 3 months. In this light, a BOT maturing on the 15th of December 2000 (60 days) will be auctioned on the 11th of October. Quantities supplied will be anyway consistent with actual demand for short-term government securities.

Three-month BOTs will keep following the normal issuing calendar. The new BOTs with non traditional maturities may be auctioned also on dates additional to those envisaged in the normal issuing calendar and they will be announced through ad-hoc communiques.

The Ministry of Treasury takes this opportunity to reiterate the policy adopted thus far with respect to six-month and twelve-month BOTs in order to insure their adequate liquidity and avoid negative effects on the CCT market. In this respect, the Treasury will keep considering both redemption volumes and overall demand for short-term government securities.

The Ministry of the Treasury also informs that a decree by the Minister is going to be published on the Gazzetta Ufficiale: The decree will discipline various aspects of BOT issues and, in Particular, It will allow bidders to subtime price detailed up to third decimal place. This change will become operational as soon as the relevant procedures are adjusted.

The following new medium and long securities will be issued in the fourth quarter of 2000:

CCT 1st of August 2000 – 2007 (minimum issue size EUR 8 billion);

BTP (coupon to be determined) 15th of October 2000 – 2003 (minimum issue size EUR 8 billion).

Such minimum quantities refer to the overall amount that the new issues will reach and, therefore, are not meant to be achieved within the quarter.

Further tranches of outstanding issues will also be offered.

As usual, the Ministry of the Treasury will retain the option of introducing new types of securities or reopening any existing issues.

Finally, as in 1998 and 1999, some or alol of the auctions scheduled for December 2000 could be reduced or cancelled.

The Ministry of Treasury

Rome, September 21, 2000

