

## Alessandro Profumo and Management Buy J.C. Flowers & Co.'s Stake in Equita, Owning 100% of the Company

**Milan, 29th July 2015** – Alessandro Profumo and the management of Equita SIM S.p.A. (“Equita”) today entered into an agreement with J.C. Flowers & Co., a global private equity firm focused on financial services, for the acquisition of the latter’s controlling stake in Equita’s share capital. According to the agreement, Alessandro Profumo, together with Francesco Perilli, Fabio Deotto, Matteo Ghilotti, Stefano Lustig and Andrea Vismara, will create a new vehicle which will take ownership control of Equita. In addition, current management will buy a further stake in Equita via ManCo S.p.A., current management’s vehicle and an existing shareholder of the Company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

The agreement forges a partnership between Alessandro Profumo, a highly experienced banker who has led major Italian financial institutions such as UniCredit and Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, and the management of Equita, who already own the remaining stake in the Company’s share capital. The partnership aims at continuing and strengthening the strategic mission of Equita as the leading Italian independent investment bank, focused on assisting Italian companies in their development, providing clients with access to the capital markets and advising institutional investors.

“I’m excited to join a team of professionals who share my vision and values and to work in a company that over a 40 year period has built a strong reputation for its entrepreneurship and independence”, commented Alessandro Profumo, who will become Chairman of Equita. “This partnership perfectly fits with my objective to support Italian mid-market companies, and I’m delighted that this will be achieved through Equita, which has a unique capacity to provide Italian entrepreneurs with access to the capital markets and to institutional investors.”

“We are delighted to join forces with an outstanding professional such as Alessandro Profumo”, commented Francesco Perilli, who will continue to act as CEO. “Equita becomes a fully independent company that is 100% owned by Italian shareholders. This strengthens our aim to be the connection between Italian companies and institutional investors. I also want to sincerely thank J.C. Flowers & Co., which despite very difficult market conditions remained fully committed to supporting our growth strategy since 2007.”

“We are very pleased to have supported Equita in its development, helping it to become the leading Italian independent investment bank, and with this agreement, enabling the management to further boost the Company’s growth thanks to the contribution of such an exceptional partner as Alessandro Profumo”, commented Thierry Porté, Managing Director of J.C. Flowers & Co. and currently Chairman of Equita and who will become Vice Chairman of Equita in its new ownership structure .

The agreement is subject to the approval by Banca d’Italia. Equita acted as sole financial advisor in the transaction, while legal advisors were Giovanni Gazzaniga from Allen & Overy for J.C. Flowers & Co., Roberto Cappelli from Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners for Alessandro Profumo and Sara Biglieri from Rucellai & Raffaelli for the management of Equita. Paolo Ludovici from Ludovici & Partners acted as tax advisor.

*Equita is a reference partner for Italian corporates and for institutional investors, thanks to over 40-year presence on the Italian financial market. With a clear and focused business model, Equita combines a strong Sales & Trading activity on equities and bonds for domestic and foreign institutional investors with a solid Investment Banking platform, dedicated to advising corporates and financial institutions on extraordinary transactions, both supported by a best-in-class Equity Research franchise. The combination of independent advisory, tradition and deep knowledge of capital markets – assured by credibility and privileged access to Italian and international institutional investors – endow Equita with a unique positioning in the Italian market.*