

April 13, 2016

Italian Banks

More needed to improve confidence

We believe the €3-6bn Atlante fund could be effective to reduce short term risk of bank failure, but it doesn't fully resolve the NPL issue in Italy and isn't enough to address concerns on Monte Paschi. Effective bankruptcy law reforms are needed we think. We remain cautious on Italian banks.

€3-6bn bank rescue fund to be created by 28th of April. According to the Italian press (*Il Sole 24 Ore*, April 12), the fund (Atlante) will have a minimum €3bn AuM contribution from banks, foundations, CDP (Italian development bank) and Insurance companies. It will be put together in time to cover the capital raises of Popolare Vicenza (May) and Veneto Banca (June) for a total consideration of €2.5bn (we note that the FT reported weak market demand for the Popolare Vicenza capital call, April 10). The rest, up to a maximum fund of €6bn will be used to buy NPLs from the system and/or cover capital needs of other banks if necessary.

Not enough to cover €6-11.5bn of capital needed for the system.

Although the creation of the fund reduces the risk of bank failures in the short term, we believe the size is barely sufficient to cover the potential capital needs of Monte Paschi alone, which in our report *Italian Banks: Addressing the NPL problem in Italy* (26 Jan 2016) we estimated could be €2-7bn.

We estimate €14-23bn of NPLs could be purchased. Using the bad bank framework (GACS) we estimate the remaining €3.5bn funds could be leveraged 4-6.7x to buy up to €14-23bn of NPLs, compared to a net amount in the system of €200bn (€360bn gross amount or 1.9% NPL ratio). We believe: (1) the limited size; and (2) the need to have an investment grade rating in the senior tranche meaning the transaction price cannot be subsidised, both limit the effectiveness of the fund to address the system's NPL problem.

More effective bankruptcy reform is needed. We believe current prices on secured NPLs are at 20-30c on the dollar vs. a carrying value of c. 50-65c (35-50% coverage), so any large scale transactions would create a capital shortfall for the more troubled banks, in our view. This is why we believe additional reforms to reduce time to repossess assets is crucial. We remain sceptical, despite the government announcing it is working on further reforms, given the reforms last year proved ineffective.

Intesa our top pick in Italy, but prefer Spain and high dividend paying names in Europe. We believe ultimately the fund will focus its purchases on Monte Paschi (the most systemic of the weaker banks) to maximize impact. However the high levels of NPLs in the system and the perception that healthy banks are paying the bill will also dampen investor appetite until visibility improves, in our view. We believe consolidation is the most effective way to accelerate balance sheet clean up in Italy as we argued *Italian Banks: M&A finally kicking off?* (15 Jan 2016).

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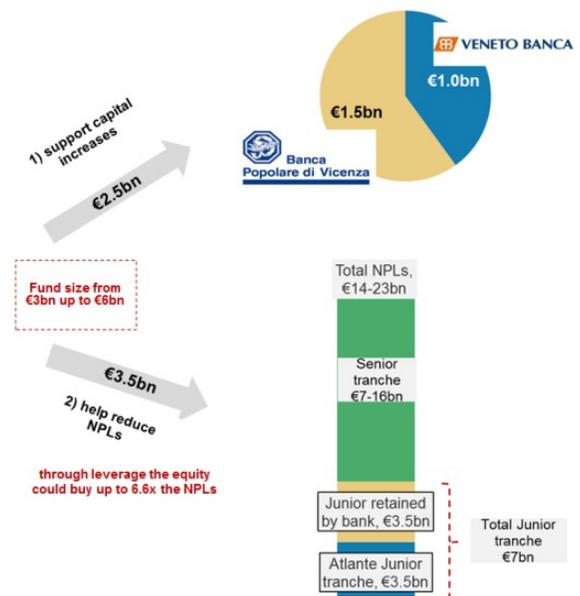
Banks

Europe

IndustryView

In-Line

Exhibit 1: Assuming a 30-50% junior tranche the fund could buy 4-6.6x the amount of NPLs



Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates; Note: Funds contribution as disclosed on *Il Sole 24 Ore* (12/04/2016); Other banks excluded Mediobanca, Pop Vicenza, Veneto Banca, Carige and BMPs according to the same press report.

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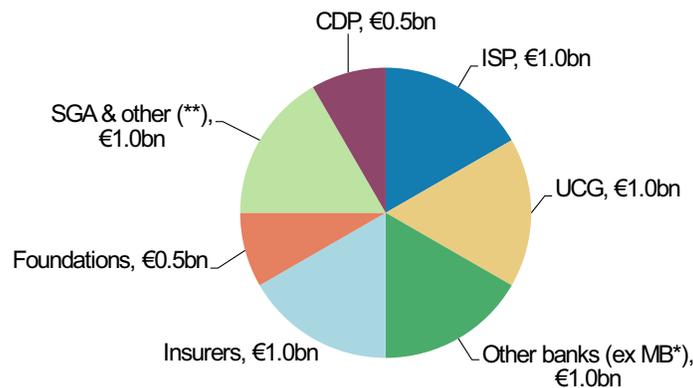
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Italian Fund "Atlante" Reduces Tail Risk for the Sector

Il Sole 24 Ore (12/04/2016) has reported on the structure of the banks rescue fund being put together in Italy to support recapitalisation efforts and potentially NPL purchases. The details are broadly in-line with previous press reports. Main details of the fund:

- The fund will have a minimum size of €3bn and could go to €6bn depending on needs and opportunities arising in the future. It can also be leveraged.
- Participating institutions will be Banks, CDP (Casa Depositi e Prestiti), Insurance companies, Foundations and other players. Il Sole 24 Ore reported Intesa and Unicredit would lead with €1bn each. This has not been confirmed by the companies.

Exhibit 2: Atlante's fund contribution could reach up to €6bn, with an initial €3bn at inception



Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates; Note: Funds contribution as disclosed on [Il Sole 24 Ore](#) (12/04/2016); (*) Other banks excludes Mediobanca and Pop Vicenza, Veneto Banca, Carige and BMPS according to the same press report. (**) SGA, Società di Gestione delle Attività was founded in 1997 to rescue Banco di Napoli (now part of Intesa's group).

- The fund will be set up by 28th of April, in time to support the recapitalisation of Popolare di Vicenza and Veneto Banca. We note that the FT reported weak market demand for the Popolare Vicenza capital call (April 10).
- The fund does not constitute government aid as participation is voluntary and CDP contribution is done at market conditions.
- In the case of the banks the participations would be fully deducted from capital.

Reduces short term risks of bank failures...

According to our estimate, based on press reports and capital raises already announced, Italian banks have between €6-11.5bn of capital requirements. The fund is designed to address the capital needs of Vicenza and Veneto Banca for an amount of €2.5bn, in our view, and would leave the rest to the private sector.

Popolare di Vicenza has an underwriting commitment from Unicredit for its required IPO of €1.5bn which needs to be completed by May, and Veneto Banca is seeking €1bn in its IPO in June which is underwritten by Intesa and a pool of banks (both according to company disclosures - the terms are not public). Given the reported lack of interest from investors to participate in the IPOs it is possible that the initial €3bn capital outlay would only be enough to support these two capital raises.

We think this is enough to avoid the risk of short-term failure of banks, as the presentation explains, but it is not obvious it would provide capacity to inject funds into other banks if they were to require capital. In particular, we

believe it would not be enough to recapitalise Monte Paschi, which we believe would need €1.1-5.5bn further provisions if its *sofferenze* were sold at market prices (see our note [Italian Banks: Addressing the NPL problem in Italy](#), 26 Jan 2016), plus further restructuring.

Exhibit 3: According to our estimate and based on press reports, and disclosures from the companies, Italian banks have between €6-11.5bn of capital needs

Bank	Tot Assets	Gross NPLs	NPL ratio %	Cov. ratio %	Equity required	Source
Carige	30,299	6,824	28%	42%	€500m	Offered by Apollo (Bloomberg 29/03/16)
Veneto	33,349	7,555	28%	35%	€1bn	Company
PopVi	39,783	8,963	31%	41%	€1.5bn	Company
BMPS	169,012	46,861	35%	48%	€2-7bn	MSe (Italian Banks: Addressing the NPL problem in Italy 26 Jan 2016)
BAPO	120,510	20,645	24%	33%	€1bn	Company
Total	392,952	90,848	42%	40%	€6-11bn	

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research estimates

We believe the equity story of the merger of Banco Popolare and Popolare Di Milano, means their €1bn announced capital will be covered by private investors, and unconfirmed press reports (Bloomberg, March 31) point to private money interest in Carige, which would leave Monte Paschi as the biggest outstanding issue, in our view.

... but the NPL problem in Italy remains unaddressed

The fund could reach up to €6bn in size, of which we expect €2.5bn to be allocated to fund the capital increases of Popolare di Vicenza and Veneto Banca and the remaining €3.5bn could be invested in the junior tranche of the SPV (bad bank), leveraging on the government guarantee.

We estimate the fund, even if fully subscribed, could buy a maximum of €14-23bn of net NPLs, just under 10% of the outstanding; however, any sizable transaction at current market prices would trigger capital needs, and we don't believe the vehicle is able to influence the price using the bad bank vehicle (GACS) as the need for the senior tranche to be investment grade forces market discipline, in our view.

The recently approved bad bank vehicle requires the NPLs to be transferred to an SPV with an Equity tranche and a Senior tranche. The government would guarantee the Senior tranche with the condition that the banks sell at least 50% of the Junior tranche and the Senior debt has an investment grade rating (see our [Italian Banks: Bad Bank reduces tail risks for the sector](#), 28 Jan 2016). This last condition, in our view, limits the leverage you can put in place in the vehicle and ensures transactions are done close to market prices.

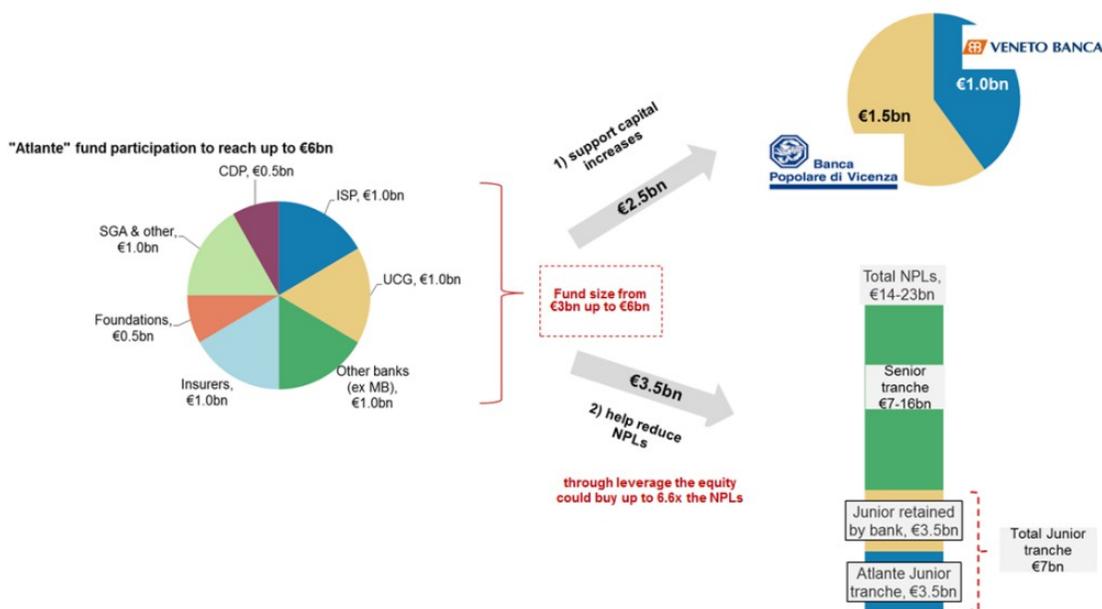
Assuming the Equity tranche is 30-50% of the total NPLs and the fund buys 50% of it (enough to de-consolidate), we believe the fund could leverage 4-6.7x. If there are €3.5bn funds available to buy NPLs, it could participate in the acquisition of €14-23bn. This compares to €200bn net NPLs in the system we estimate and €360bn gross NPLs.

Exhibit 4: We estimate up to €14-23bn of NPLs being purchased assuming the fund buys 50% of the junior tranche

Available funds to Buy NPLs	Equity tranche %	Participation in the SPV %	Leverage in (x)	NPLs purchased	System net NPLs	System gross NPLs
€3.5bn	50%	50%	4.0x	€14bn	€200bn	€360bn
€3.5bn	30%	50%	6.7x	€23bn		

Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates

Exhibit 5: Assuming a 30-50% junior tranche the fund could buy 4-6.6x the amount of NPLs



Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates; Note: Funds contribution as disclosed on *Il Sole 24 Ore* (12/04/2016); Other banks excludes Mediobanca and Pop Vicenza, Veneto Banca, Carige and BMPS according to the same press report. SGA, Societa' di Gestione delle Attivita was founded in 1997 to rescue Banco di Napoli (now part of Intesa's group).

Further reform to narrow bid-ask spread is key

The transfer price of NPLs remains the main obstacle to accelerate the rundown of non-performing loans. We think the current bid on distressed loans range between 20-30% of gross book value. With NPL coverage levels at 35-50% on average for secured *sofferenze*, this suggests that market prices need to lift further.

A transfer of NPLs from Monte Paschi to the vehicle, using a 20-40c price range, would create a capital shortfall. In February we estimated that the disposal of all the *sofferenze* NPLs at Monte Paschi would create a capital need of €1.3-5.7bn. On top of that, restructuring needs in the event of M&A would increase total capital requirements to €2-7bn.

Exhibit 6: Using the 20-40c price range for secured *sofferenze* and 5-15c for unsecured, as a range of potential transfer prices, on a *sofferenze* coverage of 63%, we believe a transfer would require additional provision for €1.3-5.7bn

4Q15 €'mn	Total Sofferenze	o/w secured	o/w unsecured
Gross value	26,627	17,840	8,787
Estimated provisions	16,894	9,812	7,082
Coverage	63.4%	55%	81%
Net Carrying value	9,733	8,028	1,705
Possible transfer price ranges			
Higher range	31.8%	40%	15%
Mid range	23.4%	30%	10%
Lower range	15.1%	20%	5%
Transfer value			
Higher range	8,454	7,136	1,318
Mid range	6,231	5,352	879
Lower range	4,007	3,568	439
Provision shortfall			
Higher range	1,279		
Mid range	3,502		
Lower range	5,726		

Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates

The lack of sufficient capital to meet market prices means banks will have to manage the recovery of NPLs themselves and we think it will take some time before we see the NPL fund execute on transactions. It is also crucial that the new bankruptcy reform reduces time to repossess assets in order to improve pricing.

As argued in previous reports, recovering the collateral in Italy can take 7-8 years on average, which has contributed to NPLs reaching €360bn at system level. By accelerating the court proceedings we think recoveries should improve, allowing banks to start the rundown of NPLs. Current market prices for secured portfolios are at 20-30c, so the success of the NPL fund, we think, will be a direct function of the government's decree. We think market reforms are much more important than the setting up of this fund. The much expected legal changes could be implemented in coming days and as early as April 18th according to *Il Sole 24 Ore* (12/04/2016).

Exhibit 7: Bankruptcy reform so far has been unsuccessful at improving NPL pricing: The government has tried to work on (1) inefficient judicial system (2) removing tax impediments to provisioning and (3) facilitate creditor coordination

#1 JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Current

Recovering the collateral value in Italy is notoriously a cumbersome and often slow process. Timing varies considerably from court to court across regions. Average time to foreclose can be 7-8 years or more in southern regions, which we think is responsible for a large proportion of the difference in the bid-ask spread in NPL transactions.

What was changed

The decree aimed at reducing the length of judicial proceedings by introducing priority / 'fast track' procedure and out-of-court resolutions. Also to relieve the burden on the courts, notaries (*curatore fallimentare*) are empowered vs. judicial administrators (*commissario giudiziale*) both to grant third-party independence and incentivize execution within the terms, failure to deliver can result in revocation.

#2 TAX WEDGE

Current

We believe tax incentives could make it attractive for both investors and banks, which should get a better price for their assets. This has allowed schemes in other countries, such as Spain but also Japan and Sweden, to provide a better price. Currently LLPs can be deducted from the tax bill in a linear amortization over the next 5 years.

What was changed

Loan loss provisions are deducted over a shorter window of 1 year, which would also speed up the rundown of deferred tax credits and incentivize banks to absorb provisions timely. Registration tax - the purchase of a real estate asset at a court auction will be subject to a fixed EUR200 registration tax in lieu of the 9% registration tax usually applicable, provided that the real estate will be sold within 24 months of the purchase date (the tax advantage applies until Dec 2016)

#3 COORDINATE ACROSS MULTIPLE CREDITORS

Current

Firms tend to enter insolvency with their assets fully encumbered by secured debt. The secured debt is held by many creditors, which can make coordination difficult and partly explains the liquidity issue.

What was changed

The proposal contemplated the reach of an agreement with 75% of creditors provided they represent at least half of total debt undertaken and that non-financial creditors e.g. suppliers, are paid in full.

Source: Governo Italiano, Morgan Stanley Research. See our *Italian Banks: NPL workout accelerated, bad bank the next step?* (25 Jun 2015) for more details.

The fund contribution could cost Intesa and Unicredit 26-35bp of CET1 B3. A draft presentation that was published by *Il Messaggero* suggests the full deduction from common equity tier 1 of the fund's contribution. Based on the breakdown published on *Il Sole 24 Ore*, we estimate a capital charge of 35bp for Intesa and 26bp for Unicredit assuming a contribution to the fund of €1bn each.

Exhibit 8: CET1 B3 consumption could be 35bp at Intesa and 26bp at Unicredit on a €1bn exposure

4Q15 €'m	Fund contribution	CET1 B3	RWA	CET1 B3 %	Capital consumption
Intesa	1,000	36,908	284,319	13.0%	0.35%
Unicredit	1,000	42,732	390,599	10.9%	0.26%
Total fund size	6,000				

Source: Morgan Stanley Research estimates; Note: Funds contribution as disclosed on [Il Sole 24 Ore](#) (12/04/2016)

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Valuation methodology for our Intesa PT of €3.25. We Use A Gordon Growth Model Per Division On 2018e Earnings And Use Three Scenarios Based On Different Underlying Macro Outcomes, As Specified Below. We Weight The Outcome 80% To The Base Case, 10% Bear Case And 10% Bull Case. We Assume A CoE Of 9% And Apply A -1% / +1% Impact For Bull And Bear Case. We Assume A Zero Growth Rate.

Risks

- The resurgence of a political risk premium in Italy could have an impact on the stock's valuation.
- Volatility in Italian sovereign spreads will continue to affect valuation both positively and negatively.

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(as of March 31, 2016)

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Equal-weight/Hold	1405	41%	333	45%	24%
Not-Rated/Hold	81	2%	5	1%	6%
Underweight/Sell	691	20%	95	13%	14%
TOTAL	3,396		738		

Data include common stock and ADRs currently assigned ratings. Investment Banking Clients are companies from whom Morgan Stanley received investment banking compensation in the last 12 months.

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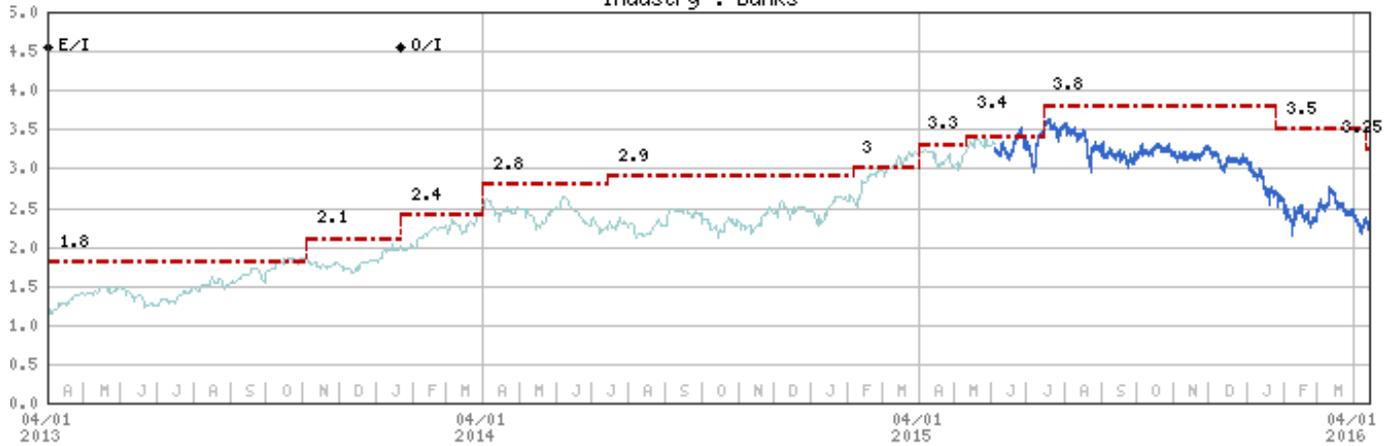
In-Line (I): The analyst expects the performance of his or her industry coverage universe over the next 12-18 months to be in line with the relevant broad market benchmark, as indicated below.

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Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A. (ISP.MI) - As of 4/12/16 in EUR
Industry : Banks



Price Target History: 1/22/13 : 1.8; 11/4/13 : 2.1; 1/22/14 : 2.4; 3/31/14 : 2.8; 7/14/14 : 2.9; 2/5/15 : 3.0; 4/1/15 : 3.3; 5/12/15 : 3.4; 7/15/15 : 3.8; 1/26/16 : 3.5; 4/11/16 : 3.25

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format : MM/DD/YY Price Target --- No Price Target Assigned (NA)
 Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) --- Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) ---
 Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as + Stock Rating/Industry View
 Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)
 Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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Effective January 13, 2014, the industry view benchmarks for Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific are as follows: relevant MSCI country index or MSCI sub-regional index or MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index.

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INDUSTRY COVERAGE: Banks

COMPANY (TICKER)	RATING (AS OF)	PRICE* (04/12/2016)
Alice Timperley, CFA		
Danske Bank (DANSKE.CO)	O (04/21/2015)	DKr 174.10
DNB (DNB.OL)	E (01/26/2016)	NKr 97.80
Nordea (NDA.ST)	E (03/28/2011)	SKr 76.40
SEB (SEBa.ST)	O (07/23/2014)	SKr 78.15
Svenska Handelsbanken (SHBa.ST)	U (09/21/2015)	SKr 100.50
Swedbank (SWEDa.ST)	E (07/23/2014)	SKr 165.70
Alvaro Serrano		
Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A. (BMPS.M)	U (07/14/2014)	€0.52
Banca Popolare di Milano S.c.a.r.l. (PMIL.M)	O (07/14/2014)	€0.58
Banco Popolare (BAPO.M)	U (07/15/2015)	€5.33
Banco Popular (ES) (POP.MC)	E (02/09/2016)	€2.18
Banco Sabadell (SABE.MC)	U (06/30/2015)	€1.44
Bankia SA (BKIA.MC)	O (09/17/2015)	€0.78
Bankinter (BKT.MC)	U (09/26/2014)	€6.16
BBVA (BBVA.MC)	O (11/24/2014)	€5.50
CaixaBank SA (CABK.MC)	O (01/18/2016)	€2.51
Intesa SanPaolo S.p.A. (ISP.M)	O (01/22/2014)	€2.24
Mediobanca Banca Di Credito Finanziario (MDBI.M)	E (10/28/2015)	€6.25
Santander (SAN.MC)	E (11/13/2013)	€3.77
UniCredit S.p.A. (CRDI.M)	O (01/22/2013)	€2.98
Unione di Banche Italiane SCPA (UBI.M)	E (01/22/2014)	€3.13
Bruce Hamilton		
ABN AMRO Group NV (ABNd.AS)	O (01/04/2016)	€18.22
BNP Paribas (BNPP.PA)	O (04/22/2015)	€42.56
Credit Agricole S.A. (CAGR.PA)	++	€9.24
ING (ING.AS)	U (03/31/2016)	€10.37
KBC Group NV (KBC.BR)	E (08/14/2014)	€46.70
Natixis (CNAT.PA)	O (10/09/2014)	€4.44
Societe Generale (SOGN.PA)	E (12/07/2014)	€31.36
Canset A Eroglu		
Commerzbank AG (CBKG.DE)	E (05/05/2015)	€7.75
Chris Manners, ACA		
Bank of Ireland (BKIR.I)	E (09/18/2014)	€0.25
Barclays Bank (BARC.L)	E (11/20/2015)	156p
HSBC (HSBAL)	U (02/08/2016)	420p
Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L)	O (08/08/2013)	67p
Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L)	O (08/26/2015)	217p
Standard Chartered Bank (STAN.L)	U (02/28/2014)	471p
Fiona Simpson, CFA		
CYBG Plc (CYB.AX)	O (03/15/2016)	A\$3.91
CYBG Plc (CYBGC.L)	E (03/15/2016)	211p
Huw Van Steenis		
Credit Suisse Group AG (CSGN.S)	E (02/05/2016)	SFr 13.42
Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE)	E (10/11/2010)	€13.98
Julius Baer (BAER.S)	E (02/17/2014)	SFr 39.17
UBS Group AG (UBSG.S)	O (01/18/2012)	SFr 14.68

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* Historical prices are not split adjusted.