

As regards risk in the process of financial information disclosure, only a restricted number of employees is involved in the disclosure process. All those who are involved in the process of financial analysis of the Company are considered to have access to inside information and are specially informed of their obligations.

The system of internal control of the recording, preparation and disclosure of financial information rests on the following key elements:

- the use of accounting principles, as set forth in the notes to the accounts, is one of the bases of the control system
- the plans, procedures and records of the Company and its subsidiaries offer a reasonable guarantee that only duly authorized transactions are recorded and that they are recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles
- the financial information is analysed systematically and regularly by business unit management (supported by the Management Control Department) and by the heads of the profit centres, ensuring continuous monitoring and the necessary budgetary control
- a timetable is established for the preparation and review of information, the work is divided up among the various areas involved and all the documents are reviewed in detail. This includes a review of the principles used, verification of the accuracy of the information produced and a check of consistency with the principles and policies used in previous years
- the accounting records and the preparation of the financial statements are overseen by the central accounting function. The financial statements are prepared by the accountants and are reviewed by the Administrative Unit.

- The consolidated financial statements are prepared on a quarterly basis by the central consolidation function, which conducts an additional reliability check
- The financial information, annual report and financial statements are reviewed by the Financial Unit and submitted to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Once the documents have been approved, they are sent to the external auditor, which issues its audit report and opinion.
- The statutory auditor carries out an annual audit and a half-yearly limited review of the individual and consolidated accounts. Also, each quarter it conducts a summary examination of the quarterly information.
- The process of preparation of the individual and consolidated financial information and of the management report is supervised by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. At quarterly intervals these bodies meet and analyze the individual and consolidated financial statements and management report.

Among the causes of risk that may materially affect financial reporting are the accounting estimates, which are based on the best information available and on the knowledge and experience of past and current events. Balances and transactions with related parties are disclosed in the annex to the financial statements and are associated above all with the Group's operating activities and its lending and borrowing, which is done at market prices.