

BARCLAYS PLC**Barclays to acquire Citi's Italian credit card business**

Barclays Bank PLC ("Barclays") has agreed to acquire the Italian credit card business (the "Business") of Citibank International Bank plc ("Citi").

Under the terms of the transaction, Barclays will acquire the business as a going concern which involves the acquisition of approximately 197,000 credit card accounts and gross assets of approximately €234 million (as at 31 December 2009), of which substantially all relate to receivables. Barclays intends to integrate the Business and its employees into its existing Barclays Italy business, which is part of Global Retail and Commercial Banking - Western Europe division.

Over time, Barclays intends to rebrand the acquired credit cards with its global Barclaycard brand.

Completion is subject to customary conditions, including competition clearance and completion of the mandatory consultation procedure with Unions. This is expected to occur in Q1 2010.

Leo Salom, Chief Executive of Barclays Global Retail and Commercial Banking – Western Europe, said: "This acquisition provides Barclays with the perfect opportunity to grow and develop further our cards business in Italy. The deal will create significant scale for continued growth and development".

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About Barclays PLC

Barclays is a major global financial services provider engaged in retail and corporate banking, credit cards, investment banking, wealth management and investment management services, with an extensive international presence in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. With over 300 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays operates in over 50 countries and employs over 145,000 people. Barclays moves, lends, invests and protects money for over 49 million customers and clients worldwide. For further information about Barclays, please visit our website www.barclays.com.

About Barclays Italy

Barclays has been present in Italy since 1990 through Woolwich, Barclays mortgage arm. Since the establishment of retail operations three years ago, Barclays has hired over 1,000 employees and now operates through a network of more than 200 branches, 100 financial shops and with over 400 sales agents. Barclays continues to pursue growth and additional hiring in Italy.

About Citi

Citi, the leading global financial services company, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 140 countries. Through Citicorp and Citi Holdings, Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, and wealth management. Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com or www.citi.com.

Forward-looking statements

This document contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 27A of the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to certain of the Group's plans and its current goals and expectations relating to its future financial condition and performance. Barclays cautions readers that no forward-looking statement is a guarantee of future performance and that actual results could differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate only to historical or current facts. Forward-looking statements sometimes use words such as "may", "will", "seek", "continue", "aim", "anticipate", "target", "expect", "estimate", "intend", "plan", "goal", "believe" or other words of similar meaning. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements regarding the Group's future financial position, income growth, assets, impairment charges, business strategy, capital ratios, leverage, payment of dividends, projected levels of growth in the banking and financial markets, projected costs, estimates of capital expenditures, and plans and objectives for future operations and other statements that are not historical fact. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to future events and circumstances, including, but not limited to, UK domestic and global economic and business conditions, the effects of continued volatility in credit markets, market related risks such as changes in interest rates and exchange rates, effects of changes in valuation of credit market exposures, changes in valuation of issued notes, the policies and actions of governmental and regulatory authorities, changes in legislation, the further development of standards and interpretations under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) applicable to past, current and future periods, evolving practices with regard to the interpretation and application of standards under IFRS, the integration of the Lehman Brothers North American businesses into the Group's business and the quantification of the benefits resulting from such acquisition, , the outcome of pending and future litigation, the success of future acquisitions and other strategic transactions and the impact of competition – a number of which factors are beyond the Group's control. As a result, the Group's actual future results

may differ materially from the plans, goals, and expectations set forth in the Group's forward-looking statements.

Any forward-looking statements made herein speak only as of the date they are made. Except as required by the UK Financial Services Authority, the London Stock Exchange or applicable law, Barclays expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained in this announcement to reflect any change in Barclays expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. The reader should, however, consult any additional disclosures that Barclays has made or may make in documents it has filed or may file with the SEC.