



Consob

Supervisory authority for the investor's protection

by
Communication Division

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CONSOB
COMMISSIONE NAZIONALE
PER LE SOCIETÀ E LA BORSA

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Index:

CONSOB	Page	3
The Institute	"	4
■ Organisational independence	"	4
■ Operational autonomy	"	4
The Organisation	"	5
■ The Commission	"	5
■ The Chairman	"	5
■ The Commissioners.....	"	5
■ The structure.....	"	5
■ Financing	"	6
■ Offices	"	6
■ Web	"	6
The tasks	"	7
CONSOB Regulates	"	7
CONSOB authorises	"	8
■ The publication of prospectuses and documents relating takeover bids	"	8
■ The operations of regulated markets	"	9
■ The listing of financial instruments issued by regulated market operators	"	10
■ The operations of central depositories	"	10
■ The centralised dissemination and storage for regulated disclosures	"	10
■ Registration in the Registers	"	10
■ Intermediaries	"	10
■ Crowdfunding service providers for business	"	11
■ List of the parties responsible for the registers for digital circulation of financial instruments	"	11
■ Register of entities authorised to submit bids in the greenhouse gas emission allowance auction market	"	11
■ The provision of services for crypto-assets carried out by specialised CASPs	"	12
CONSOB checks	"	12
■ Company information	"	13
■ The transparency of ownership	"	13
■ The accounting documents of listed companies and corporate governance	"	13
■ Public offerings.....	"	14
CONSOB monitors	"	14
■ The regulated markets and the market operators	"	15
■ The regular trading	"	15
■ The trading systems other than regulated markets	"	16
■ The central clearing, settlement and guarantee systems	"	17
■ The securitizations	"	17

■ The dissemination and storage services for regulated disclosures	"	17
■ The authorised intermediaries	"	17
■ The subjects offering or providing investment services or activities and services for crypto-assets via the internet without authorisation	"	18
■ The transparency, fairness and orderly conduct of crypto-asset trading	"	19
■ The Body of Financial Advisors	"	19
■ The listed companies	"	19
■ The public offerings	"	19
■ The auditing firms and third country audit entities	"	20
CONSOB sanctions	"	21
CONSOB collaborates and cooperates	"	21
■ At domestic level	"	21
■ with public administrations	"	21
■ with market bodies	"	22
■ with the Body of Financial Advisors	"	22
■ with trade associations	"	22
■ with Guardia di Finanza	"	22
■ with the Legal Authorities	"	22
■ At international level	"	22
■ within the context of the European Union	"	22
■ within the context of international bodies	"	23
■ cooperative agreements	"	23
CONSOB communicates	"	23
■ Answering questions	"	24
■ Complaints	"	24
■ User information service	"	24
■ The website	"	24
■ Social media	"	25
■ Investor education	"	25
■ Publications	"	25
■ The Annual Report	"	25
■ The Bulletin	"	25
■ The "CONSOB INFORMS" newsletter	"	26
■ Studies and Research.....	"	26
■ Statistics and Analysis.....	"	26
■ Strategic Plan	"	26
■ Thematic Collections	"	27

CONSOB...

... is the supervisory authority for the Italian financial products market; its aims are to protect investors and the efficiency, transparency and development of the market.

To this end:

- it *regulates* the provision of investment services and activities by intermediaries, the reporting obligations of companies listed on regulated markets and appeals for public investment;
- it *monitors* market management companies and the transparency and orderly performance of negotiations, as well as the transparency and correct nature of the conduct of intermediaries;
- it *sanctions* the entities monitored;
- it *checks* the information disclosed to the market by entities launching appeals for public investment and information contained in the accounting documents of listed companies;
- it *ascertains* any anomalous trends in the trading of listed securities and takes all other action necessary to verify violation of regulations on insider trading and market abuse;
- it *communicates* with operators and investors with a view to providing a more effective service and to develop the financial awareness of investors;
- it *cooperates* with the other domestic and international authorities appointed to organise and operate financial markets.

The Institute

CONSOB is an «Independent Authority», with a particularly high level of operational independence.

Incorporated by Law no. 216 of 7 June 1974, as a government administration to which stock exchange functions, previously carried out by the Italian Treasury, were transferred. With the additional appointment to supervise listed companies, CONSOB became an independent authority about ten years later, when Law no. 281 of 4 June 1985 acknowledged the Institute as a legal entity incorporated under public law with extensive organisational and operational independence.

By 31 March of each year, CONSOB submits a report to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance on activities carried out, on current issues and on the guidelines and strategies of its programme. This report is presented to the market during an annual meeting with the market. By 31 May the following year, the Ministry forwards the report to Parliament with comments where appropriate.

Organisational independence CONSOB draws up its own rules for the regulation of its organisation and operation, the juridical and financial treatment of its staff and the progress of careers, as well as the management of expenditure. These rules are lawfully checked by the Cabinet. The Audit Office also checks the final balance.

Operational autonomy CONSOB performs the duties assigned by the law, issuing rulings and carrying out administrative activities (authorisations, inspections, sanctions and other checks), without any Government checks of merit or management power.

The Organisation

The Commission Is a collective body comprising the chairman and four members, appointed by decree of the President of the Republic, on recommendation from the Prime Minister¹.

Its members are chosen from among persons in possession of specific skills and experience, as well as unquestionable morals and independence. They hold office for seven years without option of renewal.

The decisions are taken by the majority of the members in attendance².

The Chairman The Chairman represents the Commission, entertains relations with the Government, Parliament and other domestic and international institutions. He supervises the preliminary activity; calls meetings of the Commission, established the agenda and directing its work; he gives instructions with regard to the operation of offices and directives for their coordination.

The Commissioners The Commissioners take part in the debate and in resolutions; they present proposals in relation to the Commission's activity and the operation of the organisational structure, whose activity they collectively check.

The structure The structure is arranged into Divisions and Offices, coordinated by the Director General, who also aids the Commission in its' operations and ensures the performance of the Institute's accessory activities. The Commission makes use of non-coordinated Services within Divisions.

¹ Art. 23, subsection 1 of Decree Law 6.12.2011, n. 201 entering into force with Law 22.12.2011, n. 214 had reduced from five to three, including the Chairman, the number of the members (from the first renewed following the entering into force of the decree). Later art. 22, subsection 13, of Decree Law 24.6.2014, n. 90, converted into Law 11.8.2014, n. 114, has revoked art. 23, subsection 1 of Decree Law 6.12.2011, n. 201, reintroducing a Commission with five members.

² Art. 23, subsection 2-bis and 2-ter of Decree Law 6.12.2011, n. 201, had revoked the absolute majority for certain specific decisions. Later art. 22, subsection 14, of Decree Law 24.6.2014, n. 90, converted into Law 11.8.2014, n. 114, has reintroduced the absolute majority for specific decisions (from the appointment of the last member of the Commission).


Financing Financing comes from contributions paid in directly by market operators and bodies. It is also foreseen a Government fund whose contribution went zeroing in the last years.


CONSOB informs the Ministry of Economy and Finance of its financial needs for the following year by 31 July of each year, indicating the income expected to come from contributions for the same year.

CONSOB autonomously manages expenditure for its own operations, on the basis of the budget approved each year by the Commission. The final balance, approved by 30 April of each year, is published by CONSOB in its newsletter and disseminated using other means of communication.

In 2011 was established in Consob the College of Auditors for the control of the administrative and accounting regularity.

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The tasks

CONSOB Regulates...

- the provision of investment services and activities, the behaviors that must be kept by intermediaries and financial advisors and in dealing with investors, principles and criteria related to organization of the Body of Financial Advisors
- the provision of portfolio management services by asset management companies (AMCs) the obligations of conduct that companies must observe in the performance of their activities
- the drawing up and publication of prospectuses and documents related to offers, the procedures for the execution of offers
- the reporting obligations of listed companies
- the terms and conditions for dissemination to the public, storage and filing of regulated disclosures
- the minimum financial resources of regulated market management companies and of central depositories
- the disclosure of securitisation transactions and the organisational requirements applicable to the entities involved in the securitisation transaction
- multilateral trading facilities, organized trading facilities and systematic internalisers
- the drawing up and publication of the financial reports of listed companies
- the requirements of independence of auditors, the audit group and the quality control carried out on public interest entities
- the requirements of providers of crowdfunding services for business
- the organization and functioning of the Arbitrator for financial disputes – Acf)
- the issuance and circulation in digital form of financial instruments
- the bidding in the greenhouse gas emission allowance auction market

The efficiency of the financial market also depends on the combination of rules that regulate it.

Essential characteristics of modern regulation, sensitive to the innovative boosts of the markets and the needs of those who operate within it, are flexibility, its general comprehension, the simplification of the obligations to be fulfilled by the operators.

CONSOB is inspired by these guide-criteria in the exercise of its numerous regulatory powers.

**CONSOB
authorises...**

- the publication of prospectuses and documents relating takeover bids
- the exercise of the regulated markets
- the listing of financial instruments issued by regulated market operators
- the operations of central depositories dealing in financial instruments
- the centralised dissemination and storage for regulated disclosures
- the registrations in the registers of investment companies and crowdfunding service providers for business
- the issuance and circulation in digital form of financial instruments
- the bids in the greenhouse gas emission allowance auction market
- the provision of services for crypto-assets by specialised CASPs

*The publication of
prospectuses and
documents relating
takeover bids*

To make informed investment decisions, investors require complete and correct information.

This is why those who intend to implement a public offering of EU financial instruments for which Italy is the home member state and financial products other

than EU financial instruments must first draw up a prospectus, for which CONSOB authorises publication after verifying the completeness and consistency of its content. CONSOB also authorises the publication of prospectuses for admission of new securities to listing in the regulated markets.

The prospectuses authorised by CONSOB are valid to make public offers in the other member states of the European Union.

The same procedure follows the authorization of a public tender offer (Opa). The bidder must file with the Consob the offer document containing all relevant information on the structure and characteristics of the transaction. The document is published once approved by the Commission.

The operations of regulated markets

The organisation and management of regulated markets is a business activity and is carried out by joint stock companies.

CONSOB authorises these companies to operate regulated markets and registers them in a Register if they possess specific financial requirements, if the related internal administrative and control bodies meet determined requirements of integrity and professionalism and if in possession of a programme that illustrates the activities and organizational structure.

CONSOB also approves the regulation of each regulated market, after having checked conformity to European directives, the appropriateness for guaranteeing market transparency, the orderly execution of negotiations and the protection of investors.

The authorised regulated markets are registered in a list, while a section contains the foreign markets recognised by the European code.

Consob can admit and identify market practices,

behaviors that are repeated over time and are reasonably expected in one or more financial markets.

- The listing of financial instruments issued by regulated market operators* Market operators may negotiate their own financial instruments in the regulated markets they manage.
- Provision for the admission, exclusion and suspension of the negotiations of these instruments is made by CONSOB, as long as regulation of the market guarantees transparency, the orderly execution of negotiations and the protection of investors.
- The operations of central depositories* Central depository activities of financial instruments are carried out by joint-stock companies authorised by CONSOB.
- To obtain authorisation, these companies must possess specific capital requirements and the central depository must possess the characteristics established by CONSOB.
- The provision of dissemination services for regulated disclosures* CONSOB authorises dissemination and central storage services provided by third-party entities on behalf of issuers for regulated disclosures. In the absence of authorised entities, CONSOB organizes and manages the central storage service directly.
- Registration in the Registers* The provision of investment services and of crowdfunding services to businesses are carried out by operators in possession of specific requirements.
- *Intermediaries* The provision of investment services to the public (negotiation on own account, execution of orders on behalf of customers, subscription and/or placement, with or without guarantees, portfolio management, receipt and transmission of orders, investment consulting and the management of multilateral trading facilities) is reserved by law to investment firms, EU and non-EU investment companies, asset management companies, banks authorised by the Bank of Italy, EU and non-EU banks and foreign stockbrokers.

CONSOB authorises investment firms to exercise one or more investment services, registering them in a Register when they possess specific capital requirements and when their administrative and internal supervisory bodies met determined requirements of respectability and professionalism.

- *Crowdfunding service providers for business* As of 11 November 2023, only crowdfunding service providers for business that have obtained Consob authorisation pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2020/1503 and that, as such, are registered in the special Register of crowdfunding service providers kept by ESMA pursuant to Article 14 of the same Regulation may operate in Italy.
- *List of the parties responsible for the registers for digital circulation of financial instruments* CONSOB defines the principles and criteria relating to the formation and maintenance of the list of the parties responsible for the registers for digital circulation of financial instruments and the related forms of publicity; regulates the procedures for submitting the application for registration of the parties in charge of the register and the procedure for entry on the list; regulates the activity of the registry manager by establishing the minimum content of information on the registry's operating procedures.
- *Register of entities authorised to submit bids in the greenhouse gas emission allowance auction market* Consob registers the entities authorized to submit bids in the in the greenhouse gas emission allowance auction market.

CONSOB regulates, within the margins allowed by the directly permitted European legislation, the methods for submitting applications for authorisation by market operators, entities, other than authorised entities (banks and securities firms), which intend to access the auctioning of emission allowances on their own account and/or on behalf of third parties and which do not fall within the scope of application of the MiFID directive (Markets in Financial Instruments Directive) in that they conduct trading activities or provide investment services involving emission allowances incidental to their core business, exempt MiFID.

*the provision of services
for crypto-assets by
specialised CASPs*

Regulation (EU) 1114/2023 (known as 'MiCAR') regulates the provision of services for crypto-assets both by new specially authorised entities (specialised CASPs, i.e. providers of services for crypto-assets that are not already subject to special regulations by virtue of their status as entities already subject to supervision) and by financial intermediaries.

In particular, financial intermediaries (already supervised) will be able to provide certain services upon simple notification to the competent authority (so-called "notifiable" services), while other services will require authorisation (so-called "non-notifiable" services).

For the market access phase of specialised CASPs, the powers lie with CONSOB, which issues authorisations with the approval of the Bank of Italy. For access by entities that are already authorised, notification must be given to the authority that issued the authorisation.

**CONSOB
checks ...**

- the information released to the market by listed companies
- the transparency of ownership
- the accounting documents of listed companies
- appeals for public investment (IPOs, takeover bids and equity swaps)

A financial products market may be considered efficient when all the professional operators and investors are placed in a position in which to decide whether to invest and which investments to make on the basis of clear, thorough and promptly updated information.

This is why companies with securities listed in the regulated markets must disclose to the public:

- constant reports (relevant facts or events not of public dominion and able to considerably influence the price of the financial instruments);

- reports on extraordinary financial transactions (capital increases, mergers, spin-offs, etc.);
- periodical reports (financial statements, half-year reports, other accounting documents).

Reporting obligations also apply to issuers of unlisted financial products which are "widely distributed among the public".

Company information CONSOB checks that the information supplied to the market by listed companies is complete and correct, requiring the companies to disseminate news and additional data when this is necessary in order to enable investors to make informed investment decisions.

CONSOB may perform inspections of the same companies and obtain news and clarification from the relative administrative and supervisory bodies.

The transparency of ownership To ensure the provision of adequate information to the market, it is necessary for the ownership structure, that is their share composition, of listed companies to be made transparent.

To this end, anyone holding part of the capital of a listed company is obliged to inform CONSOB – which then informs the public – of the possession of shareholdings of at least three percent of the share capital or of other percentages set by CONSOB itself.

Those who fail to communicate said information cannot exercise their voting rights; CONSOB may impugn the resolutions of the Shareholders' meeting passed thanks to the determining vote of those who should have abstained.

There are particularly strict disclosure requirements with respect to Consob in case of conclusion of shareholder agreements concerning a listed company.

The accounting documents of CONSOB examines the accounting documents of the listed companies and its supervision is added to that

listed companies and the corporate governance carried out by the Statutory Auditors registered in the Register of Statutory Auditors held by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The Statutory Auditors express their opinion on the financial statements in specific reports and check:

- that the company accounts are kept properly and that all events occurring are correctly entered into the accounts;
- that the separate and consolidated financial statements correspond to the results of the accounts and the checks carried out by the same Statutory Auditors and that they comply with the rules governing them.

CONSOB may impugn the certified financial statements of a listed company, with regard to its content and relative evaluations.

Consob checks on transparency and fairness of transactions with related parties, on the appointment procedure and the correct composition of the administrative and control bodies, on the exercise of shareholder's rights.

Public offerings CONSOB checks that IPOs, takeover bids and equity swaps take place in observance of the rules upheld by laws and regulations.

To this end, CONSOB carries out a preventive check on the content and method of dissemination of the prospectus and offering document and a subsequent check aimed at ensuring the observance of the rules of correctness and transparency during the performance of the transactions.

**CONSOB
monitors ...**

- the regulated markets and the market operators
- the regular performance of negotiations in the regulated markets
- the trading facilities other than regulated

markets

- the central depository, clearing, settlement and guarantee systems
- the securitisation transactions
- the dissemination and storage services for regulated disclosures
- the authorised intermediaries
- the subjects that offer or perform investment services or activities and services for crypto-assets through the internet without authorisation
- the transparency, fairness and orderly conduct of crypto-asset trading
- the Body of Financial Advisors
- the listed companies
- the entities promoting public offerings of financial products
- the auditing firms and third country audit entities

In a market context which is becoming decreasingly national and increasingly competitive, characterised by the presence of a growing number of operators, one of the main tasks of the supervisory authority is monitoring.

Regulated markets and market operators

CONSOB takes the necessary measures to ensure transparency, the orderly execution of negotiations and the protection of investors, also standing in for the market operators within the regulated markets when necessary and in cases of emergency.

It checks that the rules set by the market operators are eligible to ensure the same final aims; to this end it identifies reporting obligations and organizational requirements with a view to transparency, orderly trading and investor protection. CONSOB may also carry out inspections and cancel authorisation to operate in the event of inertia or breach of authorised measures.

CONSOB inflicts financial penalties on officers and employees of market operators failing to observe the rules governing regulated markets.

Regular trading Due to their operating duties, specific groups of people are aware of news and figures which have still to be published and therefore are in position to have privileged information. These people – and anyone who becomes aware of confidential information and is also aware that said information is confidential – is forbidden from carrying out transactions in listed financial instruments using said news.

To protect the correct execution of dealings, the dissemination of exaggerated or misleading news and the entry into simulated transactions or other market manipulations are all forbidden.

CONSOB ascertains any anomalous trends in dealings in listed securities and carries out every other check in relation to the violation of laws regulating the abuse of reserved information (insider trading) and manipulation of the market.

In the case of asserted insider trading or market abuse, CONSOB inflicts a financial penalty and accessory sanctions to those found guilty. (The accessory sanction may consist, for example, in temporary loss of the requisite of respectability of company members).

Trading systems other than regulated markets CONSOB monitors multilateral trading facilities, organised trading facilities and systematic internalisers. As part of its duties, CONSOB may:

- identify minimum regulatory requirements;
- suspend or exclude trading of financial instruments admitted to listing;
- regulate the publication criteria of reports on listings and orders.

Central clearing, CONSOB monitors the central clearing, settlement and

settlement and guarantee systems guarantee systems for financial instruments, to ensure transparency, the order performance of services and the protection of investors.

It may ask the management company and operators to supply figures and news and carry out inspections.

It inflicts financial penalties upon companies, company members and employees of management companies who fail to observe the rules governing such activities.

Securitisation transactions CONSOB monitors compliance with the European Securitisation Regulation for the sale of securitisations

Dissemination and storage of regulated information CONSOB monitors on the dissemination of the information to be given to the public and on their storage.

In the case of suspect that the provision relating to regulated information are violated, it can suspend, or ask to the regulated market to suspend, the negotiations.

Authorised intermediaries To ensure the observance of the obligations of transparency and correctness and the proper performance of negotiations in financial instruments, CONSOB may:

- ask the intermediaries to report figures and news and to send deeds and documents, also on a periodical basis;
- acquire news and clarification from company exponents to ascertain the exact and complete nature of the figure and news reported or published;
- carry out inspections;
- order the intermediaries to put a stop to irregularities committed in the performance of investment services and forbid them from entering

into new transactions when the breaches committed may influence general interests or when there is an urgent need to protect the interests of investors;

- urgently suspend the administrative bodies of investment firms and asset management companies when there are situations of danger for clients or the markets and nominate a commissioner to manage cases in which there are serious irregularities with regard to administration or serious breaches of regulations;
- inflict financial penalties upon company members and employees of companies failing to observe the rules governing the provision financial instrument investment services and the service of collective portfolio management;
- propose to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance that the intermediaries be subject to extraordinary administration or coercive administrative liquidation.

Subjects that offer or perform investment services or activities and services for crypto-assets through the internet without authorisation

With regard to these subjects, Consob may make public, even by way of a precaution, the circumstance that the party is not authorised to carry out the investment activities and order that the infringement cease.

In addition, Consob can order the suppliers of connectivity to the internet or the operators of other telematic or telecommunication networks, or operators that in relation to them provide telematic or telecommunication services, the removal of the initiatives of anyone in the territory of the Republic, through telematic or telecommunication networks, offers or carries out investment services or activities and services for crypto-assets without being qualified therefor.

Consob may prohibit the diffusion of advertising campaigns carried out through the telematic networks or any other type of communication means

if the object of which is, directly or indirectly, investment services and activities provided by parties not qualified.

The transparency, fairness and orderly conduct of crypto-asset trading

Regulation (EU) 1114/2023 (known as "MiCAR") regulates the issuance, offering and admission to trading of crypto-assets and, in particular, asset-referenced tokens ("ARTs"), electronic money tokens (e-money tokens, or "EMTs") and crypto-assets other than asset-referenced tokens or electronic money tokens (so-called "Other Than").

MiCAR also regulates the authorisation and operating conditions for crypto-asset service providers, as well as the prevention and prohibition of market abuse relating to crypto-assets. The supervisory authorities for crypto-assets are CONSOB and the Bank of Italy, according to their respective competences.

The Body of Financial Advisors

CONSOB checks the activity of the Body of Financial Advisors and decides on appeals against the measures taken by the Body.

In case of impossibility in the operating or continued inactivity, CONSOB may temporarily replace with a commissioner the composition organs of the Body.

From 1 December 2018, the Body acquired full operations, taking ownership of the decision-making powers concerning the keeping and management of the register and the supervisory, precautionary and sanctioning functions.

The register includes, in three distinct sections, the financial advisors qualified for door-to-door selling, the independent financial advisors and the financial advisory firms.

Listed companies

CONSOB checks observance by listed companies of reporting obligations in relation to the market and inflicts sanctions on members of companies breaching such obligations.

Public offerings

CONSOB suspends and forbids appeals to public investment (IPOs, takeover bids and equity swaps)

when the regulations governing them are not observed; CONSOB also inflicts financial penalties on transgressors.

Auditing firms and third country audit entities

CONSOB requires the statutory auditors registered in the Register kept by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in order to check their independence and technical suitability, to communicate, even periodically, data and news and to transmit deeds and documents.

CONSOB carries out inspections and recommends principles and criteria to be adopted for the legal audit.

In the event of serious irregularities in the performance of the audit and certification functions of the financial statements, it applies sanctions to the statutory auditors (financial sanctions; injunction not to use, for a specific period, the people who committed the irregularities; prohibition on accepting new audit assignments for a period not exceeding three years; revocation of the appointment; cancellation from the Register in case of particularly serious irregularities).

Since 13 September 2012, the Register of statutory auditors has been kept by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (Mef); these auditors must possess requirements that ensure their independence and technical suitability.

The statutory auditors registered in the aforementioned Register carry out accounting control functions at companies with shares listed on regulated markets and at other entities operating on the financial market (SIMs, asset management companies, companies that solicit investments in financial products, etc.).

With the Regulation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) 1 September 2022, n. 174, a specific separate section called "third-country auditors and audit bodies section" has been established in the Register of statutory auditors at this Ministry, relating to third-country auditors and audit bodies, referred to in the article 34, paragraph 1, of Legislative Decree 27 January 2010 n. 39.

Following the issuing of the Mef Regulation, Consob, in implementation of articles 35, paragraph 3 and 36, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree no. 39/2010, approved Regulation no. 22358 of 6 December 2022 on the supervision of auditors and audit bodies of third countries and exceptions in case of equivalence.

**CONSOB
sanctions ...**

- those monitored in the event of breach of regulations

**CONSOB
collaborates and
cooperates...**

- at domestic level
- at international level

At domestic level

The sectoral public authorities and various market bodies take part in the organisation and operation of the Italian financial market. The overall consistency and functionality of their action are also guaranteed by collaborations involving the formulation of proposals, the expression of opinions and agreements and the exchange of information.

*With public
administrations*

■ **The Ministry of the Economy and Finance**

CONSOB offers its technical opinion on the regulatory provisions implemented by the Ministry (requirements of respectability and professionalism for corporate officers of intermediaries and financial advisers etc.).

■ **The Bank of Italy, the Commission for monitoring pension funds, IVASS and the Antitrust**

CONSOB exchanges information with the Bank of Italy, the Commission for monitoring pension funds, IVASS and the Antitrust needed to perform their respective monitoring activities, entering into agreements and setting up management committees. CONSOB expresses intentions or opinions on the provisions pertinent to property intermediation of the competence of the Bank of Italy, the Commission for monitoring pension funds and the IVASS.

■ Other Public Administrations

CONSOB collaborates with other Italian public administrations by exchanging information, within the limits of the professional secrecy act.

With market bodies Relations with market bodies are governed by the regulations that assign CONSOB monitoring power. There are also active forms of collaboration which aim to help accomplish the conditions for adequate operation and development of the financial market.

With the Body of Financial Advisors CONSOB and the Body of Financial Advisors exchange information in order to facilitate the exercise of their duties.

With trade associations CONSOB cooperates with consumer and trade associations, whose comments and assessments are considered in the performance of its duties.

With Guardia di Finanza CONSOB exchanges information with and enlists the collaboration of the Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police) for the performance of investigations and enquiries instrumental to the accomplishment of the institutional duties.

With Legal Authorities CONSOB exchanges information with the Legal Authorities and indicates events ascertained in the performance of its duties, when these may be of a criminal nature.

At international level

Collaboration at international level takes place within Europe and with the participation of the IOSCO (International Organization of Securities Commissions) and entry into two-way agreements with other supervisory authorities.

Within the context of the European Union CONSOB takes an active part in work carried out within Europe for the development of European law on matters for which it is competent.

It collaborates with the competent authorities of the European Union member states in compliance with EU regulations and, in the absence of such regulations, under the terms of cooperative agreements.

It's part of the Esma (which includes the supervisory authorities of the countries of the European Union).

Within the context of international bodies

CONSOB is a member of the IOSCO (which currently encompasses the supervisory authorities of financial markets in over 100 countries) and of the ESMA (whose members are the Supervisory Authorities of the European Union member states) and takes part in work carried out by other international organisations with regard to financial services, such as OCSE and the WTO and with IFIAR (International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators).

Cooperative agreements

It enters into agreements with the supervisory authorities of the financial markets of other countries for collaboration and the exchange of information.

Numerous agreements are currently valid, their purpose being mutual assistance for the repression of unlawful conduct on the markets and observance by operators of the obligations for transparency and correctness with regard to the market and investors.

CONSOB communicates ...

- answering questions
- checking out complaints
- through the user information service
- through the website
- through social media
- through financial education initiatives
- with publications

The communication activity is one of the top priorities of CONSOB. The widespread and easy dissemination of information on the Institute's activity and the data in its possession, and the accomplishment of projects aimed at encouraging the awareness by investors of the rules governing operation on the property market are instruments that CONSOB considers to be

necessary to develop the financial culture of the public and to strengthen its ability for self-defence.

CONSOB has gradually expanded the information and communication instruments outwards, with the aim of supplying an effective, prompt public relations service in line with technological evolution.

Answering questions CONSOB answers questions interpreting the laws and regulations, posed by market operators, trade associations and the associations that represent investors.

This activity, although not part of the institutional tasks, contributes to their better performance, as it provides guidelines for the application of regulations and makes the behavior of operators homogeneous, thus contributing to better protection of investors.

Complaints CONSOB receives complaints regarding events or conducts considered to be incorrect.

Complaints are a useful source of information for CONSOB, helping it with its monitoring activity, and may contribute to the ascertainment and correction of irregular conducts and practices.

CONSOB cannot however directly defend the financial rights of those who present complaint. The Legal Authorities must be contacted to defend such rights. CONSOB's job is to check any irregular or improper conduct and impose sanctions, in the more general interest of protecting public investment.

The user information service By contacting CONSOB's Public Relations Office it is possible to obtain information and clarification on institutional activities, receive news on the actual registration of an intermediary in the CONSOB Registers, receive documentation on provisions and interpretative directives drawn up by the Commission.

The website The website (www.consob.it), opened in 1998 and is a powerful IT tool aimed at meeting the demands not

only of specialised operators but also of the general public.

Access, consultation and data downloading are all free of charge.

Social media Since 20 May 2025, CONSOB has had its own LinkedIn page.

This is the first step towards a broader presence for the Institute on social media channels. With this move, CONSOB intends to strengthen its communication with the financial community, savers and the general public, in line with the objectives of its recent internal reorganisation.

Investor education It is a specific articulation of CONSOB communication activity. The "Investors education" section of the website supplies tools to learn more about financial products and make investment decisions easier.

Publications ■ **The Annual Report**

This document illustrates activity carried out during the previous year, current issues and the orientation and guidelines of the programme that the Commission intends to pursue.

■ **The "Electronic Bulletin"**

Since January 2007, a special section of the web site has been dedicated to the official CONSOB Bulletin online. On a fortnightly basis, the Bulletin section contains all the provisions and decisions adopted by the Commission and is regularly updated with documents as they are adopted. Document identification is facilitated by the availability of search engines offering keyword searches, including keyword combinations, by period, content, date, subject and type of provision.

On 16 October 2024, a section of the Bulletin was

established specifically dedicated to the publication of sanctions, and on 7 March 2025, a new section was added dedicated to "commitments", made mandatory pursuant to Article 196-ter of the Consolidated Law on Finance, which provides for the possibility of settling sanction proceedings through negotiated agreements, thus avoiding the imposition of sanctions.

The "CONSOB INFORMS" newsletter

This document contains a summary of the main provisions, those of more general importance and other information on CONSOB activities; it is published every week to offer the public and operators prompt, updated reports.

Studies and Research: The Finance Books, The Legal Books, Discussion papers, Position papers

These contain product research or works promoted by the Institute and include all the institutional operations and official agreements on matters of particular importance to CONSOB.

Statistics and analysis: The Risk Outlook, The Corporate Governance Report, The Report on financial investments of Italian households

These Reports, published periodically, analyses trends in financial market and identifies risk factors to Consob's institutional objectives.

Strategic Plan

The three-year Strategic Plan defines objectives that Consob considers priority for the changing economic scenario and regulatory framework and identifies the actions that allow improving the efficiency of human and financial resources for the achievement of institutional objectives.

Thematic collections

These documents collect and organize projects promoted and implemented on some subjects of institutional interest like financial education and the FinTech.