

# Press Release

By the Communications Directorate

Rome, 8 March 2024

## Launch of consultation

The Bank of Italy has launched a public consultation on a proposal to activate a systemic risk buffer (SyRB) of 1.0 per cent of domestic exposures weighted for credit and counterparty credit risks; the buffer requirement would apply to all Italian banks and banking groups. The buffer rate target would be reached gradually: 0.5 per cent would need to be set aside by 31 December 2024, and the remaining 0.5 per cent by 30 June 2025.

The activation of the SyRB – a capital buffer envisaged under European legislation and immediately releasable by macroprudential authorities when deemed necessary – is aimed at further increasing the resilience of the Italian banking system to shocks – including those originating outside of the financial system – and at enhancing the capacity of banks to absorb possible losses and continue to finance Italian firms and households. Analyses by the Bank of Italy show that the costs of introducing the buffer would be extremely low in the current macroeconomic environment, and that in any case they would be largely offset by the benefits associated with the release of the buffer by the macroprudential authority in case of shocks.

The [consultation document](#) (only in Italian) gives information on the rationale for the introduction of the buffer, on its calibration and on the cost-benefit analysis.

Comments on the report can be sent via certified e-mail to [stf@pec.bancaditalia.it](mailto:stf@pec.bancaditalia.it) no later than 29 March 2024.