



FIMBANK

**First International
Merchant Bank p.l.c.**

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Company Registration No : C 17003

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following is a Company Announcement issued by First International Merchant Bank p.l.c. pursuant to MFSA Listing Rules 8.6.2 and 8.6.19:

Quote

On 15th March 2004, the Board of Directors of First International Merchant Bank p.l.c. approved the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2003 and resolved that they be submitted for the approval of the shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. A Preliminary Statement of Annual Results for the financial year ended 31st December 2003 is attached herewith in terms of Listing Rule 9.53.

The Board of Directors will be recommending at the Annual General Meeting that the shareholders approve the payment of a Net Dividend of USD792,077. Upon such approval, all shareholders of First International Merchant Bank p.l.c. registered as at the close of business on 30th March 2004 shall be entitled to a payment of a Net Dividend of USD0.01,2 per share, which shall be paid by not later than the 14th May 2004.

The Annual General Meeting of First International Merchant Bank p.l.c. shall be held on the 7th May 2004 at 11.00 hours, at the The Portomaso Suite of the Hilton Malta. Shareholders on the Company's Register at the Central Securities Depository of the Malta Stock Exchange as at the close of business on 5th April 2004 will be entitled to receive notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Unquote

Francesco Apap Bologna

Company Secretary

16th March 2004

First International Merchant Bank p.l.c.

Preliminary Statement of Annual Results

For the Year Ended 31 December 2003



	Group	Bank	
	2003	2003	2002
	USD	USD	USD
Interest receivable on loans and advances and balances with Central Bank of Malta	3,440,895	3,235,211	3,914,668
Interest payable	(1,045,161)	(1,077,834)	(1,265,498)
Net interest income	2,395,734	2,157,377	2,649,170
Other net operating income	6,774,251	7,308,968	5,463,865
Operating income	9,169,985	9,466,345	8,113,035
Administrative expenses	(6,280,585)	(5,748,045)	(4,271,503)
Depreciation	(507,753)	(311,958)	(262,746)
Net impairment reversal/(losses)	554,865	(60,289)	(9,935,604)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(571,846)	-	-
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before tax	2,364,666	3,346,053	(6,356,818)
Tax on results on ordinary activities	(62,319)	(62,319)	227,919
Profit/(loss) for the year	2,302,347	3,283,734	(6,128,899)
Earnings/(loss) per share	4.99c	7.12c	(13.32c)
Balance Sheet extracts as at	31/12/03	31/12/03	31/12/02
Loans and advances to customers	34,268,827 *	64,936,427	24,403,487
Loans and advances to banks	85,818,706	83,584,730	90,458,355
Total assets	175,869,953	168,060,582	120,098,408
Amounts owed to customers	73,675,060	75,298,813	45,725,136
Amounts owed to banks	43,282,344	43,282,344	43,197,825
Shareholders' funds	47,561,032	48,542,419	30,414,660
Commitments & Contingent Liabilities	67,474,661	67,474,661	132,168,176

* Includes loan of \$30,667,600 to subsidiary company - LFC

Additional Information

The figures, published in terms of MFSA Listing Rule 8.6.2, have been extracted from FIMBank p.l.c.'s audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003 as approved by the Board of Directors on 15 March 2004.

In 2003, FIMBank registered a net profit before tax of USD3,346,054, with an increase in operating income of 17%. Group profit on ordinary activities before tax were USD2,364,666. Operating income for the Group was USD9,169,985, which is 13% more than the figure generated by the Bank in 2002.

The results include a gain of approximately USD1.4 million in dealing profits resulting from the favourable exchange rate movement of GBP against the USD during the acquisition of London Forfeiting Company (LFC), - FIMBank's fully-owned London based subsidiary company.

The Board has recommended the payment of a net dividend of USD792,077, equivalent to USD0.01c2 per share for approval by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. The net dividend will be payable to shareholders registered as at close of business on the 30 March 2004.