



Press Release –2011 Unaudited Results

Byblos Bank reports strong balance sheet growth while maintaining profitability

Byblos Bank Headquarters, Ashrafieh, 26 January 2012: Byblos Bank's unaudited consolidated total assets increased by 8.6% (+USD 1.3 billion) during 2011 to USD 16.6 billion as at 31 December 2011, as compared to USD \$15.3 billion at the end of 2010. Customers' deposits increased during 2011 by 7.8% (+USD 0.9 billion) to USD 12.8 billion as at 31 December 2011, and net customers' loans increased by 6.3% (+USD 0.2 billion) during 2011 to USD 4.0 billion as at 31 December 2011.

Net profit for 2011 increased by 1.2% to USD 179.7 million as compared to USD 177.7 million in 2010. The Bank allocated provisions for credit losses (specific and collective) for an amount of USD 44 million during 2011, out of which USD 31.9 million as collective provisions. Specific and collective provisions allocated against the loan portfolio in Byblos Bank Syria amounted to USD 16.7 million.

Return on Average Assets (ROA) and Return on Average Common Equity (ROCE) stood at 1.11% and 12.30% respectively as compared to 1.22% and 14.03% in 2010. Cost to income decreased considerably to 43.28% in 2011 compared to 45.18% in 2010.

Primary liquidity placed with central banks and banks amounted to USD 9 billion representing 70.2% of total deposits at the end of December 2011 as compared to 65.5% at the end of December 2010, one of the highest in the sector. Moreover, the Bank continued in its strategy to match long-term foreign currency assets with long-term funding in foreign currency, as evidenced by the recent issuance of USD 300 million in 10-year bonds carrying a coupon of 7%.

Total capital of the Bank (Tier 1 and Tier 2) amounted to USD 1,851 million at the end of December 2011. Capital Adequacy Ratio according to Basle 2 stood at 14%. Gross non-performing loans represented 2.95% of gross loans as at 31 December 2011, and were covered up to 81.1% by specific provisions & reserved interest. The coverage ratio reaches 139% when we account for collective provisions. Net non-performing loans (net of specific provisions and reserved interest) reached 0.58% at the end of December 2011.

For further information, please contact:

Ziad El Zoghby

Head of Finance & Administration Division

Byblos Bank S.A.L.

Phone: +961 1335 280