

**RADIO 24 INTERVIEW WITH GROUP CEO GIOVANNI PERISSINOTTO**

**(Studio) As far as the manoeuvre is concerned, a rigorous approach is advocated by Generali CEO Giovanni Perissinotto. He was interviewed by Paolo Piacenza during the conference “Global Economy Outlook & Fiscal Soundness” organised by Advantage Financial ...**

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Perissinotto: We need rigor, the courage to take unpopular decisions, because otherwise I think we'll be unable to overcome the crisis.

**The key issue is pensions and welfare reforms. You talked about “restoring the central role of savings” in part by establishing a broader balance that includes private management of pensions.**

Perissinotto: A great deal definitely needs to be done in this field, both in the pensions area and above all in healthcare, one of the main challenges. Some progress has been made in pensions and, as I said, there is certainly room for a much more broadly based private welfare system, but another of the major problems for the deficit is healthcare spending. This is another area where I believe some form of cooperation between public and private can be a solution.

**You also talked about an “ethical risk”, about bad regulatory decisions or the failure to take regulatory decisions. This has been the subject of much discussion ...**

Perissinotto: This idea, probably there was no alternative to rescuing everyone who made the wrong business decisions, is contrary to market evidence. However, in these particular circumstances there was probably no alternative, but I think we should always remember that when you make mistakes you have to pay for them.

**A final question about sovereign funds. They are viewed as a risk factor in the current situation of great economic instability and in the foreign exchange sector in particular ...**

Perissinotto: The sovereign funds certainly have surpluses to invest, so they could be a stabilising force. The problem is they are waiting for more stable markets than we have at the moment, because it certainly seems to me that so far the market entries made by these funds, through equity or other forms of investment, have not produced satisfactory results.