



PRESS RELEASE

CREMONININ GROUP: Consolidated Revenues total Lire 2,689 billion (+5.7 % with respect to '99).

The BSE Crisis penalizes the consolidated net profit but the Group contains the loss to Lire 19 billion and proposes the distribution of a dividend.

Vincenzo Cremonini nominated Chief Executive Officer of Cremonini S.P.A.

The Board of Directors of Cremonini S.p.A. has today examined the preliminary figures of the 2000 financial statements and has nominated Vincenzo Cremonini as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

Notwithstanding the negative effects of the BSE crisis, the Group has contained the 2000 loss to Lire 19 billion (Euro 9.81 million) with respect to a profit of Lire 30 billion (Euro 15.49 million) in 1999. The loss, entirely resulting from the trend in the beef sector, which registered a fall in volumes of production and sales in the last part of the year associated with a drop of over 20 % in the average price of meat, has obviously influenced all the principle economic indicators of the Group.

The gross consolidated operating margin was, in fact, Lire 128 billion (Euro 66.10 million) with respect to Lire 195 billion in 1999 (Euro 100.71 million).

The consolidated operating margin in 2000 was equal to Lire 40 billion (Euro 20.66 million) with respect to Lire 101 billion (Euro 52.16 million) in 1999.

During the course of today's meeting, the Board of Directors also positively evaluated the timely cost reduction actions taken in the beef sector to meet the BSE emergency, consisting principally of the rationalization of production activities.

In relation to the prospects of the Group, moreover, the Board of Directors has approved the maintenance of a dividend distribution, by means of the utilization of part of the available reserves.

The Cremonini Group recorded 2000 total consolidated revenues equal to Lire 2,689 billion (about Euro 1.389 billion), up by about 5.7 % with respect to Lire 2,544 billion of 1999 (about Euro 1.314 billion).

The increase in total revenues was achieved thanks to the growth of each individual area of the Cremonini Group's activities: the revenues of the restaurant services area were Lire 286 billion (Euro 147.70 million), a growth of about 35 % with respect to Lire 211 billion (Euro 108.97 million) in 1999.

Distribution revenues (food distribution to the catering sector and door-to-door distribution of frozen products and ice cream) recorded an increase of 4.3% to Lire 1,061 billion in 2000 (Euro 547.96) against Lire 1,017 billion (Euro 525.24 million) in 1999 .

The production area revenues totaled Lire 1,381 billion (about Euro 713.23 million) in 2000 with respect to Lire 1,343 billion (about Euro 693.6 million) in 1999.

Finally, the Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Ing. Roberto Canonico, and co-opted Dott. Giovanni Barberis, Chief Financial Officer of the company, as a member of the Board..

Cremonini, with over 4,300 employees, is one of Europe's largest food groups, with activities focussed in three integrated business sectors: production, distribution and restaurant services.

The Group, absolute leader in Italy in the production of beef, and meat-based transformed products, and in food distribution to the catering sector, has, moreover, a significant presence in the sector of restaurant services and, in particular, the leadership in Italy in on-board train restaurant services and at railway stations.

Castelvetro di Modena, 10 March 2001

VINCENZO CREMONINI
Professional Profile

Born in Modena and thirty-seven years old, Vincenzo Cremonini, a member of the Board of Directors of Cremonini S.p.A. since 1996, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Cremonini S.p.A. He held the same role for about five years with INALCA, the Group company with over 1000 employees that is leader in Italy in the slaughtering and beef transformation sector and amongst the major players in the European market.

Having obtained a degree in Business Administration at Boston University in 1988, on his return to Italy Vincenzo Cremonini was appointed the sole Director of Foodservice System Italy, a Group company that managed the "Burghy" fast food chain with 16 sales points in Italy.

Burghy, under the guidance of Vincenzo Cremonini, developed very rapidly and, in the span of a few years (from 1989 to 1996), grew from 16 to 96 sales points spread throughout Italy.

Vincenzo Cremonini has, moreover, held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Agape S.p.A., the Group company that operated in the sector of commercial and collective restaurant services in Italy.

The new Chief Executive Officer is a member of the Board of Directors of a further two companies of the Group: Marr S.p.A. (leader in the sector of the food distribution to the catering sector) and Corte Buona S.p.A. (a company active in the sector of production and distribution of cured and packaged meats).