

## PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors approves financial report as of June 30 2010

# COFIDE GROUP: NET INCOME FOR THE FIRST HALF AT 18.6 MILLION EURO

The decline from the result of 2009 is due to the lower contribution of the subsidiary CIR, whose net income for last year contained non-recurring gains of approximately 110 million euro. Revenues and margins up thanks to the improvement in the operating results of the CIR group

## Results for the first half of 2010

- Revenues: € 2,343.1 million (+6.4%); EBITDA: € 191.1 million (+31.2%)
- Net income: € 18.6 million (€ 54.8 million in 1H 2009)
- Net debt of COFIDE: € 35.5 million (€ 28.6 million at 31/03/2010)
- Consolidated net debt: € 2,226.5 million (€ 2,081.1 million at 31/03/2010)
- Total equity: € 2,476.8 million (€ 2,363 million at 31/12/2009)

*Milan, July 30 2010* - The **Board of Directors** of **COFIDE-Compagnia Finanziaria De Benedetti SpA**, which met today in Milan under the chairmanship of **Francesco Guasti**, examined and approved the **semi-annual financial report** of the group as of **June 30 2010**.

#### Performance of operations

In the first half of 2010 **COFIDE** reported **consolidated net income** of **18.6 million** euro, down from 54.8 million euro in the same period of last year. The result was mainly determined by the contribution of the subsidiary CIR (20.4 million euro versus 58.6 million euro in the first half of 2009). CIR's consolidated earnings figure for the first half of 2010 was 42.2 million euro and compares with a result of 120.8 million euro in the previous year, which had benefited from non-recurring income of approximately 110 million euro. Net of these gains, CIR's income figure for first half 2010 is higher than that of 2009.

COFIDE is the controlling **shareholder** of **CIR-Compagnie Industriali Riunite SpA**, the company at the head of an industrial group active in energy, media, automotive components, healthcare and financial services. In the COFIDE group is also **Euvis**, the company in which J.P Morgan has an interest, which has been operating in Italy since 2005 in the sector of lifetime or reverse mortgages for the elderly. At June 30 2010 Euvis had 74 million euro of lifetime mortgages under management, of which 18.5 million were originated in the first half.

#### **Consolidated results**

The consolidated revenues of COFIDE in the first half of 2010 came in at **2,343.1 million** euro, up from 2,202.8 million in the first half of 2009 (+6.4%). The consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA) for the first half of 2010 was **191.1 million** euro, up by **31.2%** from the figure for the first half of 2009 (145.7 million euro). The consolidated operating result (EBIT) was **105.3 million** euro, up by **33.6%** from 78.8 million euro in the first half of 2009. The rise in the consolidated margins was due principally to the significant rise in profitability of the CIR group.

The financial management result, a negative 42.3 million euro, was determined by net financial expense of 51.5 million euro, partly offset by net gains from trading and valuing securities of 9.2 million euro. The change compared to the positive result of 77.4 million euro for first half 2009 was due mainly to the non-recurring gains that were present last year, for a total of approximately 110 million euro.

**Consolidated net income** for first half 2010 came to **18.6 million** euro, down from 54.8 million euro in the same period of 2009. The change from last year was due mainly to the lower contribution of the subsidiary CIR (20.4 million euro versus 58.6 million euro in the first half of 2009), whose net income figure had benefited in 2009 from non-recurring income of approximately 110 million euro. Net of this item, CIR's earnings in the first half of 2010 are actually higher than in 2009.

The **net financial debt of the COFIDE holding** stood at **35.5 million** euro at June 30 2010 (28.6 million euro at March 31 2010). The **consolidated net financial debt of the COFIDE group** totalled **2,226.5 million** euro at June 30 2010, up from 2,081.1 million euro at March 31 2010.

**Total consolidated equity** amounted to **2,476.8 million** euro at June 30 2010, up from 2,363 million at December 31 2009. The **total consolidated equity of the group** rose from 704.2 million euro at December 31 2009 to **736.7 million** euro at June 30 2010.

#### Performance of the parent company of the group

The **parent company of the group COFIDE SpA** closed the first half of 2010 with a net loss of 1.8 million euro (a net loss of 2.2 million euro in the same period of 2009) and equity of 567 million euro (up from 565.7 million euro at December 31 2009).

#### Outlook for the year

In the second half of the year the COFIDE group will continue with its management efficiency actions and with the investment programs planned for the development of all sectors of the business. The group confirms that for the subsidiary CIR there is not expected to be any non-recurring income as there was last year. The consolidated net income of the COFIDE group for 2010 should, therefore, be lower in absolute terms than that of 2009.

The executive responsible for the preparation of the company's financial statements, Giuseppe Gianoglio, hereby declares, in compliance with the terms of paragraph 2 Article 154 bis of the Finance Consolidation Act (TUF), that the figures contained in this press release correspond to the results documented in the company's accounts and general ledger.

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#### Alternative performance indicators

Below the meaning and content are given of the "alternative performance indicators", not envisaged by IFRS accounting standards but used in this press release to provide a better evaluation of the economic and financial performance of the COFIDE group.

- EBITDA (gross operating margin): an indicator of operating performance calculated by adding "amortization, depreciation and write-downs" to the EBIT figure (earnings before interest and taxes);
- **Consolidated net financial debt:** an indicator of the financial structure of the group; it is determined as the balance of borrowings net of cash and cash equivalents and current financial assets (financial receivables, securities and available-for-sale financial assets).

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Attached are key figures from the consolidated and statutory balance sheets and income statements.

#### COFIDE GROUP - CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(in thousands of euro)		
ASSETS	30.06.2010	31.12.2009
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,704,651	4,327,036
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,386,634	1,352,322
TANGIBLE ASSETS	2,427,870	2,187,892
NVESTMENT PROPERTY	22,550	18,965
NVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	309,788	275,899
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	5,221	9,629
OTHER RECEIVABLES	199,115	208,075
of which with related parties (*)	4,262	4,480
SECURITIES	101,846	83,051
DEFERRED TAXES	251,627	191,203
CURRENT ASSETS	2,653,197	2,476,754
NVENTORIES	155,229	156,150
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS	11,344	3,464
TRADE RECEIVABLES	1,090,004	1,042,030
of which with related parties (*)	17,070	18,032
OTHER RECEIVABLES	191,184	204,465
of which with related parties (*)	1,744	1,727
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES	280,787	27,229
SECURITIES	384,986	338,264
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS	176,396	119,527
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	363,267	585,625
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL	761	700
TOTAL ASSETS	7,358,609	6,804,490

IABILITIES AND EQUITY	30.06.2010	31.12.2009
QUITY	2,476,825	2,363,015
HARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	87,582	73,587
ETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	270,902	208,678
IET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	18,586	62,293
GROUP EQUITY	736,675	704,163
VINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,740,150	1,658,852
ION-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,970,820	3,018,964
SONDS AND NOTES	563,210	718,262
THER BORROWINGS	2,008,592	1,903,227
OTHER PAYABLES	1,389	1,211
of which to related parties (*)		69
DEFERRED TAXES	190,821	181,489
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	130,057	137,856
ROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	76,751	76,919
URRENT LIABILITIES	1,910,964	1,422,511
ANK OVERDRAFTS	257,743	66,294
SONDS AND NOTES	153,373	731
THER BORROWINGS	432,166	192,499
of which from related parties (*)	415	2
RADE PAYABLES	734,657	837,060
of which to related parties (*)	23,729	28,649
OTHER PAYABLES	246,019	230,249
ROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	87,006	95,678

(\*) As per Consob Resolution no. 6064293 of July 28 2006

## COFIDE GROUP - CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

### (in thousands of euro)

		1st Half 2010		1st Half 2009
TRADE REVENUES		2,343,076		2,202,832
of which from related parties (*)	88,811		8,041	
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES		6,455		(7,812
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS of which from related parties (*)	(130,008)	(1,420,180)	(134,157)	(1,339,878
COSTS FOR SERVICES		(387,613)		(370,093
PERSONNEL COSTS		(347,240)		(336,677
OTHER OPERATING INCOME of which from related parties (*)	365	44,573	362	40,31
OTHER OPERATING COSTS		(79,854)		(72,702
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY		31,844		29,691
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITEDOWNS		(85,794)		(66,890
INCOME BEFORE FINANCIAL ITEMS AND TAXES ( E B I T )		105,267		78,790
FINANCIAL INCOME of which from related parties (*)	5,095	30,055	5,059	32,33
FINANCIAL EXPENSE		(81,492)		(89,716
of which with related parties (*)	(33)		(195)	
DIVIDENDS		88		46
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES		14,129		142,22
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES		(3,872)		(19,445
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS		(1,164)		11,583
INCOME BEFORE TAXES		63,011		156,234
INCOME TAXES		29,274		(23,389
RESULT AFTER TAXES FROM OPERATING		02.205		122.041
ACTIVITY		92,285		132,84
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL				
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS		92,285		132,84
- NET INCOME OF MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS		(73,699)		(78,026
- NET INCOME OF THE GROUP		18,586		54,819
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0258		0.076
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0258		0.076

(\*) As per Consob Resolution no. 6064293 of July 28 2006

	1st Half	1st Ha
	2010	200
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS	92,285	132,84
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITEDOWNS	85,794	66,89
SHARE OF RESULT OF COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	(31,844)	(29,69)
ACTUARIAL VALUATION OF STOCK OPTION PLANS	4,623	3,77
CHANGE IN PERSONNEL PROVISIONS, PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	(16,639)	10,14
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	6,164	(11,58
CAPITAL GAIN FROM SUBSCRIPTION OF CAPITAL BY MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS		(76,73
CAPITAL GAINS ON THE SALE OF SECURITIES		(46,04
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NON-CURRENT RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES	(42,015)	(2,91
(INCREASE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	(128,285)	6,32
OTHER CHANGES		50,57
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	(29,917)	103,58
of which:		
- interest received (paid)	(37,818)	(16,19
- income tax disbursements	(12,697)	(62,71
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
(PURCHASE) SALE OF SECURITIES	(108,018)	502,18
PURCHASE OF FIXED ASSETS	(379,309)	(267,25
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	(487,327)	234,93
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
INFLOWS FROM CAPITAL INCREASES	3,173	184,21
OTHER EQUITY CHANGES	18,197	11,68
DRAWDOWN/(REPAYMENT) OF OTHER BORROWINGS	89,064	(412,13
BUYBACK OF OWN SHARES	(91)	(1,16
DIVIDENDS PAID OUT	(6,906)	(8,96
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	103,437	(226,35
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(413,807)	112,1
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF PERIOD	519,331	452,43
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	105,524	564,60
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# COFIDE GROUP – STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CONSOLIDATED EQUITY

(in thousands of euro)	Attril	butable to t	he shareholders of t	the parent com	pany	Minority	Total
	Share capital	Reserves	Retained earnings (losses)	Net income (losses) for the period	Total	interests	
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2008	359,605	74,981	157,324	52,165	644,075	1,455,553	2,099,628
Capital increases						187,851	187,851
Dividends to Shareholders						(20,413)	(20,413)
Retained earnings		811	51,354	(52,165)			
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		2,407			2,407	(81,196)	(78,789)
Overall result for the period							
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments		(138)			(138)	(947)	(1,085)
Fair value measurement of securities		6,953			6,953	3,188	10,141
Securities fair value reserve recognized to income statement		(18,923)			(18,923)	(20,056)	(38,979)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		1,095			1,095	3,498	4,593
Currency translation differences		6,401			6,401	11,633	18,034
Result for the period				62,293	62,293	119,741	182,034
Total overall result for the period		(4,612)		62,293	57,681	117,057	174,738
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2009	359,605	73,587	208,678	62,293	704,163	1,658,852	2,363,015
Capital increases						3,173	3,173
Dividends to Shareholders						(6,906)	(6,906)
Retained earnings		69	62,224	(62,293)			
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		4,530			4,530	(4,584)	(54)
Overall result for the period							
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments		(190)			(190)	784	594
Fair value measurement of securities		3,535			3,535	(128)	3,407
Securities fair value reserve recognized to income statement		411			411	437	848
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		250			250	544	794
Currency translation differences		5,390			5,390	14,279	19,669
Result for the period				18,586	18,586	73,699	92,285
Total overall result for the period		9,396		18,586	27,982	89,615	117,597
BALANCE AT JUNE 30 2010	359,605	87,582	270,902	18,586	736,675	1,740,150	2,476,825

ASSETS	30.06.2010	31.12.2009
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	579,502	579,513
TANGIBLE ASSETS	448	449
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	850	850
INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	578,073	578,073
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	0	0
OTHER RECEIVABLES	131	141
CURRENT ASSETS	81,012	108,463
TRADE RECEIVABLES WITH RELATED PARTIES	760	0
OTHER RECEIVABLES	2,712	2,746
SECURITIES	42,483	74,276
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	35,057	31,441

TOTAL ASSETS	660,514	687,976

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	30.06.2010	31.12.2009
EQUITY	566,995	565,702
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	162,017	158,879
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	47,149	45,841
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-1,776	1,377
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	30,293	60,234
OTHER BORROWINGS	29,910	59,869
OTHER PAYABLES	34	34
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	349	331
CURRENT LIABILITIES	63,226	62,040
BANK OVERDRAFTS	5	4
OTHER BORROWINGS	60,648	60,000
TRADE PAYABLES	616	264
TRADE PAYABLES WITH RELATED PARTIES	270	C
OTHER PAYABLES	1,687	1,772
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	660,514	687,976

	1st Half 2010	1st Half 2009
SUNDRY REVENUES AND INCOME	774	90
of which: with related parties	760	881
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS	(24)	(29
COSTS FOR SERVICES	(1,276)	(1,226
of which: costs for services from related parties	(270)	(275)
PERSONNEL COSTS	(360)	(363
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	(219)	(208
DEPRECIATION AND WRITEDOWNS	(34)	(35
OPERATING RESULT	(1,139)	(956
FINANCIAL INCOME	922	75
of which: from related parties	0	366
FINANCIAL EXPENSE	(931)	(2,522
DIVIDENDS	0	973
of which: from related parties	0	973
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES	33	163
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES	(464)	(601
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	(197)	(
INCOME/ LOSS BEFORE TAXES	(1,776)	(2,186
INCOME TAXES	0	
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	(1,776)	(2,186

	1st Half 2010	1st Half 2009
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-1,776	-2,186
ADJUSTMENTS:		
DEPRECIATION	34	35
PROVISIONS TO LEAVING INDEMNITY FUND NET OF WITHDRAWALS	18	-488
LOSSES / (GAINS) FROM SALE OF CURRENT SECURITIES	431	440
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	-11	C
(INCREASE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	-189	36,026
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	-1,493	33,827
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN TANGIBLE ASSETS	-33	-2
CHANGE IN OTHER CAPITALIZED RECEIVABLES	10	-1
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	-23	-3
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN OTHER BORROWINGS	-29,311	-57
NET CHANGE IN CURRENT SECURITIES	34,442	73,255
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	5,131	73,198
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	3,615	107,022
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF PERIOD	31,437	5,879
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	35,052	112,901
	33,032	112,301

### COFIDE S.p.A. - CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Share		Retained	Net income (loss)	
	capital	Reserves	earnings (losses)	for the period	Total
BALANCE AT JANUARY 1 2009	359,605	154,830	30,426	16,226	561,087
Allocation of result for 2008	0	811	15,415	(16,226)	0
Fair value adjustment of securities:					
- Change in reserve	0	3,238	0	0	3,238
Result for 2009	0	0	0	1,377	1,377
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2009	359,605	158,879	45,841	1,377	565,702
Allocation of result for 2009	0	69	1,308	(1,377)	0
Fair value adjustment of securities:					
- Change in reserve	0	3,069	0	0	3,069
Result for first half 2010	0	0	0	(1,776)	(1,776)
BALANCE AT JUNE 30 2010	359,605	162,017	47,149	(1,776)	566,995