



PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors approves results as of March 31 2010

Consolidated results of Q1 2010

- **Net income: € 0.9 million (€ 9.7 million in Q1 2009)**
- **Net debt of COFIDE: € 28.6 million (€ 28.5 million at 31/12/2009)**
- **Consolidated net debt: € 2,081.1 million (€ 1,824.7 million at 31/12/2009)**
- **Total equity: € 2,390.7 million (€ 2,363 million at 31/12/2009)**
- **Group equity: € 711.8 million (€ 704.2 million at 31/12/2009)**

Turin, April 30 2010 - The **Board of Directors** of **COFIDE-Compagnia Finanziaria De Benedetti SpA** met today in Turin under the chairmanship of **Francesco Guasti** to examine the **interim financial report** of the group as of **March 31 2010**.

Performance of operations

In the first quarter of 2010 **COFIDE** reported **consolidated net income** of almost **1 million** euro, compared to 9.7 million euro in the same period of last year. The result was made up mainly of the contribution of the subsidiary CIR (1.6 million euro compared to 9.5 million euro in first quarter 2009).

COFIDE is the controlling **shareholder** of **CIR-Compagnie Industriali Riunite SpA**, the company at the head of an industrial group active in the sectors of energy, media, automotive components, healthcare and financial services. Belonging to the COFIDE group is also **Euvis**, the company in which J.P Morgan has an interest and which has been operating in Italy since 2005 in the business of lifetime mortgages for the elderly. At March 31 2010 the lifetime mortgages managed by Euvis totalled 66 million euro, of which 8.5 million euro were made in the first quarter.

Consolidated results

The **consolidated revenues** of COFIDE in the first quarter of 2010 came to **1,139.5 million** euro, versus 1,138.3 million in the first quarter of 2009 (**+0.1%**).

The **consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA)** was **66 million** euro in the first quarter of 2010, and was **up** by **14.6%** compared to the figure of first quarter 2009 (57.6 million euro). The improvement from last year is due above all to the **rise in the EBITDA of the subsidiary CIR**. The **consolidated operating margin (EBIT)** was **26.2 million** euro, up slightly from 25.6 million euro in first quarter 2009.

The **financial management result** was a negative 13.8 million euro (a positive figure of 5.9 million euro in the first quarter of 2009) caused by net financial expense of 23.9 million euro, partly offset by dividends and net gains from trading securities of 3.4 million euro and positive adjustments to the value of financial assets of 6.7 million euro.

Consolidated net income for the first quarter of 2010 came in at **0.9 million** euro, compared to 9.7 million euro in the same period of 2009.

The **net debt of the COFIDE holding** at March 31 2010 stood at **28.6 million** euro, substantially unchanged from the figure at the end of 2009 (28.5 million euro). The **consolidated net debt of the COFIDE group** at March 31 2010 was **2,081.1 million** euro, up from 1,824.7 million euro at December 31 2009.

Total consolidated equity stood at **2,390.7 million** euro at March 31 2010, versus 2,363 million at December 31 2009. The **group's share of consolidated equity** rose from 704.2 million euro at December 31 2009 to **711.8 million** euro at March 31 2010.

Outlook for the year

In the coming quarters the COFIDE group will be continuing to make investments aimed at developing all sectors of the business, and to implement its cost-cutting action. It confirms that for the subsidiary CIR to date there is not expected to be any non-recurring income such as that which affected the last two years. The consolidated net income of the COFIDE group for 2010 will, therefore, be lower 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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*Attached are highlights from the consolidated balance sheet and income statement.
It should be noted that these financial statements have not been subjected to an audit*

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in thousands of euro)

ASSETS	<i>31.03.2010</i>	<i>31.12.2009</i>	<i>31.03.2009</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,482,037	4,327,036	3,959,307
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,383,746	1,352,322	1,302,161
TANGIBLE ASSETS	2,281,242	2,187,892	1,870,753
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	18,822	18,965	19,394
INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	291,760	275,899	300,225
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	6,289	9,629	14,781
OTHER RECEIVABLES	195,545	208,075	245,476
SECURITIES	94,269	83,051	75,715
DEFERRED TAXES	210,364	191,203	130,802
CURRENT ASSETS	2,462,179	2,476,754	2,799,757
INVENTORIES	154,719	156,150	183,885
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS	10,468	3,464	3,171
TRADE RECEIVABLES	1,088,691	1,042,030	1,211,328
OTHER RECEIVABLES	217,685	204,465	375,742
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES	48,250	27,229	18,520
SECURITIES	369,539	338,264	233,088
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS	160,551	119,527	189,735
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	412,276	585,625	584,288
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL	699	700	668
TOTAL ASSETS	6,944,915	6,804,490	6,759,732
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<i>31.03.2010</i>	<i>31.12.2009</i>	<i>31.03.2009</i>
EQUITY	2,390,726	2,363,015	2,096,942
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	80,351	73,587	59,294
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	270,971	208,678	209,489
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	865	62,293	9,661
GROUP EQUITY	711,792	704,163	638,049
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,678,934	1,658,852	1,458,893
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,959,645	3,018,964	3,051,734
BONDS AND NOTES	566,115	718,262	882,682
OTHER BORROWINGS	1,995,711	1,903,227	1,789,990
OTHER PAYABLES	508	1,211	3,367
DEFERRED TAXES	187,855	181,489	173,203
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	134,393	137,856	145,691
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	75,063	76,919	56,801
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,594,544	1,422,511	1,611,056
BANK OVERDRAFTS	140,271	66,294	191,655
BONDS AND NOTES	151,099	731	2,799
OTHER BORROWINGS	202,095	192,499	198,139
TRADE PAYABLES	759,527	837,060	865,284
OTHER PAYABLES	249,984	230,249	269,606
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	91,568	95,678	83,573
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	6,944,915	6,804,490	6,759,732

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	<i>01/01-31/03 2010</i>	<i>01/01-31/03 2009</i>
SALES REVENUES	1,139,498	1,138,318
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES	4,115	(7,172)
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS	(708,916)	(733,312)
COSTS FOR SERVICES	(185,731)	(181,185)
PERSONNEL COSTS	(167,897)	(160,731)
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	20,541	11,402
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	(52,193)	(29,632)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	16,609	19,907
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITEDOWNS	(39,841)	(31,962)
INCOME BEFORE INTEREST AND TAXES (E B I T)	26,185	25,633
FINANCIAL INCOME	12,845	20,952
FINANCIAL EXPENSE	(36,740)	(45,738)
DIVIDENDS	--	--
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES	6,616	40,165
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES	(3,199)	(3,100)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	6,692	(6,395)
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	12,399	31,517
INCOME TAXES	(5,068)	(5,208)
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS	7,331	26,309
- NET INCOME MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS	(6,466)	(16,648)
- NET INCOME OF THE GROUP	865	9,661

COFIDE GROUP – NET FINANCIAL POSITION

(in thousands of euro)

	31.03.2010	31.12.2009	31.03.2009
A. Cash and banks	412,276	585,625	584,288
B. Other cash equivalents	144,082	105,169	174,426
C. Securities held for trading	369,539	338,264	233,088
D. Cash and cash equivalents (A) + (B) + (C)	925,897	1,029,058	991,802
E. Current financial receivables	48,250	27,229	198,420
F. Current bank borrowings	(215,220)	(157,510)	(324,352)
G. Bonds and notes issued	(151,099)	(731)	(2,799)
H. Current part of non-current debt	(126,780)	(101,281)	(65,434)
I. Other current borrowings	(366)	(2)	(8)
J. Current financial debt (F) + (G) + (H) + (I)	(493,465)	(259,524)	(392,593)
K. Current net financial position (J) + (E) + (D)	480,682	796,763	797,629
L. Non-current bank borrowings	(1,798,131)	(1,676,126)	(1,486,848)
M. Bonds and notes issued	(566,115)	(718,262)	(882,682)
N. Other non-current payables	(197,580)	(227,101)	(303,142)
O. Non-current financial debt (L) + (M) + (N)	(2,561,826)	(2,621,489)	(2,672,672)
P. Net financial position (K) + (O)	(2,081,144)	(1,824,726)	(1,875,043)