



PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors approves results as of June 30 2009

COFIDE GROUP: FIRST HALF EARNINGS 54.8 MILLION EURO

Consolidated results of first half 2009

Net income: € 54.8 million (€ 66 million in H1 2008)
Aggregate net debt: € 29.2 million (€ 30.2 million at March 31 2009)
Consolidated net debt: € 1,701.4 million (€ 1,875 million at March 31 2009)
Total equity: € 2,298.6 million (€ 2,099.6 million at December 31 2008)
Equity of the Group: € 687.7 million (€ 644.1 million at December 31 2008)

Milan, July 31 2009 – The **Board of Directors** of **COFIDE-Compagnia Finanziaria De Benedetti SpA**, which met today under the chairmanship of **Francesco Guasti**, examined and approved the **semi-annual financial report** of the group as of **June 30 2009**.

Performance of operations

In the first half of 2009 **COFIDE** reported **consolidated net income** of **54.8 million** euro, despite the deep economic recession. The decline from 66 million euro in the first half of 2008 was mainly due to the lower contribution of the subsidiary CIR, amounting to 58.6 million euro versus 69.3 million euro in the same period of the last year.

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 a holding and which has been operating in Italy since 2005 in the business of lifetime mortgages for the elderly. At June 30 2009 the lifetime mortgages managed by the company amounted to **46 million** euro.

Consolidated results

The **consolidated revenues** of COFIDE in the first half of 2009 were **2,202.8 million** euro, compared to 2,358.7 million in the same period of 2008 (-6.6%). The **consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA)** in the first half of 2009 came in at **145.7 million** euro, **down** by **40.7%** from the figure of first half 2008 (245.7 million euro). The **consolidated operating margin (EBIT)** was **78.8 million** euro, down from 179.6 million euro in first half 2008. The change in operating results was due mainly to the lower profitability of the CIR group.

Consolidated net income for first half 2009 came in at **54.8 million** euro, down from 66 million euro in the same period of 2008.

Consolidated net invested capital stood at **4,000 million** euro at June 30 2009, up from 3,832.1 million at the end of 2008.

The **aggregate net financial debt** of the companies COFIDE and COFIDE International at June 30 2009 came to **29.2 million** euro (30.2 million euro at March 31 2009 and 29 million euro at December 31 2008). The **consolidated net financial debt of the COFIDE group** at June 30 2009 stood at **1,701.4 million** euro, **down** from 1,875 million euro at March 31 2009 and 1,732.5 million euro at December 31 2008, largely thanks to the reduction in the debt of the CIR group.

The consolidated net financial position includes the investment in Medinvest, which at June 30 2009 amounted to an overall 116.8 million euro. The performance of Medinvest since inception (April 1994) until December 31 2008 gave a weighted average annual return on the portfolio of 7.7%. In the first six months of 2009 performance was positive (+5.5%).

Total consolidated equity at June 30 2009 stood at **2,298.6 million** euro, up from 2,099.6 million at December 31 2008. The **consolidated equity of the group** went up from 644.1 million euro at December 31 2008 to **687.7 million** euro at June 30 2009.

The **net result of the parent company of the group COFIDE SpA** in the first half of 2009 was a **negative 2.2 million** euro versus net income of 16.9 million euro in the first half of 2008. The change compared to last year was essentially due to the fact that no dividend was distributed by the subsidiary CIR for the year 2008.

Outlook for the rest of this year

In 2009 the current period of deep recession will affect the results of the different business sectors in which the main subsidiary CIR operates with varying intensity, particularly the media and automotive components businesses. To counter the difficult international economic scenario, the group has already in the last few quarters put in place a rigorous financial strategy as well as cost cutting measures and has been repositioning the subsidiaries most hit by the crisis, without however sacrificing new investment for the development of all businesses, especially those with higher growth potential. The action taken should produce further results in the second half of the year.

The executive responsible for the preparation of the company's financial statements, Oliviero Maria Brega, 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 and statutory balance sheets and income statements

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

(in thousands of euro)

	30.06.2009	31.12.2008
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,045,491	3,855,142
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,339,099	1,299,872
TANGIBLE ASSETS	1,951,981	1,790,561
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	19,251	19,537
INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES VALUED AT EQUITY	260,491	282,824
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	10,171	9,682
OTHER RECEIVABLES	230,740	247,312
<i>of which with related parties (*)</i>	20,664	20,734
SECURITIES	88,589	84,978
DEFERRED TAXES	145,169	120,376
CURRENT ASSETS	2,553,668	3,272,993
INVENTORIES	150,971	195,311
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS	4,435	2,915
TRADE RECEIVABLES	1,136,244	1,233,689
<i>of which with related parties (*)</i>	27,455	24,661
OTHER RECEIVABLES	199,375	367,458
<i>of which with related parties (*)</i>	1,547	151,288
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES	35,164	25,721
SECURITIES	202,397	589,340
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS	128,252	235,208
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	696,830	623,351
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL	730	653
TOTAL ASSETS	6,599,889	7,128,788
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	30.06.2009	31.12.2008
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	2,298,596	2,099,628
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	64,576	74,981
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	208,678	157,324
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	54,819	52,165
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY OF THE GROUP	687,678	644,075
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,610,918	1,455,553
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,711,516	3,082,740
BONDS AND NOTES	739,180	895,458
OTHER BORROWINGS	1,587,041	1,803,542
OTHER PAYABLES	3,329	3,367
<i>of which with related parties (*)</i>	69	68
DEFERRED TAXES	180,329	174,903
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	140,052	148,779
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	61,585	56,691
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,589,777	1,946,420
BANK OVERDRAFTS	132,229	170,918
BONDS AND NOTES	733	347,445
OTHER BORROWINGS	287,752	120,948
<i>of which from related parties (*)</i>	2	71
TRADE PAYABLES	802,299	947,720
<i>of which to related parties (*)</i>	50,545	22,088
OTHER PAYABLES	272,782	279,389
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	93,982	80,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	6,599,889	7,128,788

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

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

		<i>1st Half 2009</i>		<i>1st Half 2008</i>
SALES REVENUES		2,202,832		2,358,665
<i>of which from related parties (*)</i>	<i>8,041</i>		<i>882</i>	
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES		(7,812)		7,412
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS		(1,339,878)		(1,368,547)
<i>of which from related parties (*)</i>	<i>(134,157)</i>		<i>(79,804)</i>	
COSTS FOR SERVICES		(370,093)		(397,497)
PERSONNEL COSTS		(336,677)		(351,559)
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		40,319		42,322
<i>of which from related parties (*)</i>	<i>362</i>		<i>9</i>	
OTHER OPERATING COSTS		(72,702)		(52,243)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS VALUED AT EQUITY		29,691		7,186
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS		(66,890)		(66,101)
INCOME BEFORE FINANCIAL ITEMS AND TAXES (E B I T)		78,790		179,638
FINANCIAL INCOME		32,332		35,304
<i>of which from related parties (*)</i>	<i>5,059</i>		<i>6,131</i>	
FINANCIAL EXPENSE		(89,716)		(98,193)
<i>of which with related parties (*)</i>	<i>(195)</i>		<i>(12)</i>	
DIVIDENDS		465		2,491
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES		142,225		133,476
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES		(19,445)		(10,438)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS		11,583		(4,185)
INCOME BEFORE TAXES		156,234		238,093
INCOME TAXES		(23,389)		(57,196)
RESULT BEFORE TAXES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY		132,845		180,897
INCOME (LOSS) FROM ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL		--		--
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS		132,845		180,897
- NET INCOME OF MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS		(78,026)		(114,889)
- NET INCOME OF THE GROUP		54,819		66,008
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0762		0.0918
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0762		0.0918

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

COFIDE GROUP – CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	<i>1st Half 2009</i>	<i>1st Half 2008</i>
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS:	132,845	180,897
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS	66,890	66,101
SHARE OF RESULT OF COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	(29,691)	(7,186)
ACTUARIAL VALUATION OF STOCK OPTION PLANS	3,773	1,144
CHANGE IN PERSONNEL PROVISIONS AND PROV. FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	10,149	12,325
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	(11,583)	4,185
CAPITAL GAIN ON SUBSCRIPTION OF CAPITAL INCREASES BY MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS	(76,735)	(117,810)
CAPITAL GAINS ON SALE OF SECURITIES	(46,045)	--
RISE (REDUCTION) IN NON-CURRENT RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES	(2,910)	(7,067)
(RISE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	6,320	(208,175)
OTHER CHANGES	50,570	--
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	103,583	(75,586)
of which:		
- interest income (expense)	(16,191)	(51,409)
- disbursements for income tax payments	(62,710)	(30,489)
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
(PURCHASE) SALE OF SECURITIES	502,186	(302,182)
PURCHASE OF FIXED ASSETS	(267,251)	(242,112)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	234,935	(544,294)
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
INFLOWS FROM CAPITAL INCREASES	184,219	268,683
OTHER CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	11,686	(1,580)
DRAWDOWN/(REPAYMENT) OF OTHER BORROWINGS	(412,130)	(5,868)
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES FROM JOINT VENTURES	--	42,499
BUYBACK OF OWN SHARES	(1,161)	(13,842)
DIVIDENDS PAID OUT	(8,964)	(136,455)
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	(226,350)	153,437
RISE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	112,168	(466,443)
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF PERIOD	452,433	630,886
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	564,601	164,443

COFIDE GROUP – STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CONSOLIDATED EQUITY

<i>(in thousands of euro)</i>	<i>Attributable to the shareholders of the parent company</i>					<i>Minority interests</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Share capital</i>	<i>Reserves</i>	<i>Retained earnings (losses)</i>	<i>Net income (loss) for period</i>	<i>Total</i>		
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2007	359,605	164,337	136,397	32,352	692,691	1,402,505	2,095,196
Capital increases	--	--	--	--	--	274,006	274,006
Dividends to Shareholders	--	--	--	(10,788)	(10,788)	(136,185)	(146,973)
Retained earnings	--	637	20,927	(21,564)	--	--	--
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments	--	(2,993)	--	--	(2,993)	(8,334)	(11,327)
Fair value measurement of securities	--	(52,742)	--	--	(52,742)	(28,103)	(80,845)
Securities fair value reserve recognized to income statement	--	(40,601)	--	--	(40,601)	(26,957)	(67,558)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries	--	(1,522)	--	--	(1,522)	(132,955)	(134,477)
Currency translation differences	--	7,865	--	--	7,865	(5,303)	2,562
Result for the period	--	--	--	52,165	52,165	116,879	169,044
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2008	359,605	74,981	157,324	52,165	644,075	1,455,553	2,099,628
Capital increases	--	--	--	--	--	184,219	184,219
Dividends to Shareholders	--	--	--	--	--	(8,964)	(8,964)
Retained earnings	--	811	51,354	(52,165)	--	--	--
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments	--	(774)	--	--	(774)	(1,938)	(2,712)
Fair value measurement of securities	--	1,558	--	--	1,558	(828)	730
Securities fair value reserve recognized to income statement	--	(17,617)	--	--	(17,617)	(18,687)	(36,304)
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries	--	4,445	--	--	4,445	(81,583)	(77,138)
Currency translation differences	--	1,172	--	--	1,172	5,120	6,292
Result for the period	--	--	--	54,819	54,819	78,026	132,845
BALANCE AT JUNE 30 2009	359,605	64,576	208,678	54,819	687,678	1,610,918	2,298,596

COFIDE S.p.A. – BALANCE SHEET

(in thousands of euro)

ASSETS	30.06.2009	31.12.2008
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	580,782	580,814
TANGIBLE ASSETS	471	504
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	850	850
INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	579,372	579,372
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	0	0
OTHER RECEIVABLES	89	88
CURRENT ASSETS	133,835	133,455
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES WITH RELATED PARTIES	0	36,426
TRADE RECEIVABLES WITH RELATED PARTIES	850	29
OTHER RECEIVABLES	2,943	2,726
SECURITIES	17,138	88,392
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	112,904	5,882
TOTAL ASSETS	714,617	714,269
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	30.06.2009	31.12.2008
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	561,342	561,087
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	158,082	154,830
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	45,841	30,426
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-2,186	16,226
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	90,581	151,142
OTHER BORROWINGS	89,854	149,927
OTHER PAYABLES	34	34
DEFERRED TAXES	0	0
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	693	1,181
CURRENT LIABILITIES	62,694	2,040
BANK OVERDRAFTS	3	3
OTHER BORROWINGS	60,016	0
TRADE PAYABLES	774	326
PAYABLES WITH RELATED PARTIES	275	0
OTHER PAYABLES	1,626	1,711
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	714,617	714,269

COFIDE S.p.A. – INCOME STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	1st Half 2009	1st Half 2008
SUNDRY REVENUES AND INCOME	905	1,057
<i>of which from related parties</i>	881	1,036
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS	(29)	(40)
COSTS FOR SERVICES	(1,226)	(1,598)
<i>of which from related parties</i>	(275)	(274)
PERSONNEL COSTS	(363)	(865)
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	(208)	(294)
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS	(35)	(47)
OPERATING RESULT	(956)	(1,787)
FINANCIAL INCOME	759	1,586
<i>of which from related parties</i>	366	963
FINANCIAL EXPENSE	(2,522)	(6,763)
DIVIDENDS	973	21,810
<i>of which from related parties</i>	973	19,611
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES	161	847
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES	(601)	0
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	0	872
NET INCOME / LOSS BEFORE TAXES	(2,186)	16,565
INCOME TAXES	0	292
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	(2,186)	16,857

COFIDE S.p.A. – CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	1st Half 2009	1st Half 2008
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-2,186	16,857
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION AND DEPRECIATION	35	47
AMOUNTS SET ASIDE TO PERSONNEL PROVISIONS NET OF WITHDRAWALS	-488	244
LOSSES / (GAINS) ON SALE OF CURRENT SECURITIES	440	-847
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	0	-872
DEFERRED TAXES ON CHANGES IN FAIR VALUE	0	-292
(RISE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	36,026	-2,460
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	33,827	12,677
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN TANGIBLE ASSETS	-2	-21
CHANGE IN OTHER CAPITALIZED RECEIVABLES	-1	-1
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	-3	-22
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN OTHER BORROWINGS	-57	2,295
NET CHANGE IN CURRENT SECURITIES	73,255	-18,843
DIVIDENDS PAID OUT	0	-10,788
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	73,198	-27,336
RISE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	107,022	-14,681
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF PERIOD	5,879	25,791
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	112,901	11,110

COFIDE S.p.A. – STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(in thousands of euro)

	<i>Share capital</i>	<i>Retained earnings Reserves</i>	<i>Net income (losses)</i>	<i>Net income (loss) for period</i>	<i>Total</i>
BALANCE AT JANUARY 1 2008	359,605	173,251	29,114	12,737	574,707
Allocation of net income for 2007	0	637	1,312	(1,949)	0
Distributed to Shareholders	0	0	0	(10,788)	(10,788)
Adjustment of securities to fair value:					
- Change in reserve	0	(25,818)	0	0	(25,818)
- Deferred taxes on change in reserve	0	6,760	0	0	6,760
Result for the year 2008	0	0	0	16,226	16,226
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2008	359,605	154,830	30,426	16,226	561,087
Allocation of net income for 2008	0	811	15,415	(16,226)	0
Adjustment of securities to fair value:					
- Change in reserve	0	2,441	0	0	2,441
- Deferred taxes on change in reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Result for first half 2009	0	0	0	(2,186)	(2,186)
BALANCE AT JUNE 30 2009	359,605	158,082	45,841	(2,186)	561,342