

PRESS RELEASE

Board of Directors approves results for financial year 2010

COFIDE GROUP: NET INCOME OF 22.9 MILLION EURO, PROPOSED DIVIDEND OF 0.01 EURO PER SHARE

The decline in the net income figure compared to 2009 was due to the lower contribution of the subsidiary CIR, whose earnings last year benefited from non-recurring gains of 106.7 million euro

Revenues and margins both up thanks to the improvement of the operating results of the CIR group

Results for financial year 2010

- Revenues: € 4,805.5 million (+12.6%); EBITDA: € 394.2 million (+36.6%)
- Net income: € 22.9 million (€ 62.3 million in 2009)
- Net debt COFIDE: € 31.9 million (€ 31 million at 30/09/2010)
- Consolidated net debt: € 2,194.6 million (€ 2,249.4 million at 30/09/2010)
- Total equity: € 2,550.9 million (€ 2,363 million at 31/12/2009)

Milan, March 10 2011 – The Board of Directors of COFIDE-Gruppo De Benedetti SpA, which met today in Milan under the chairmanship of Francesco Guasti, approved the proposed statutory financial statements and the consolidated financial statements of the group for financial year 2010.

Performance of operations

In 2010 **COFIDE** reported **consolidated net income** of **22.9 million** euro, down from 62.3 million euro in the previous year. The result was mainly due to the contribution of the subsidiary CIR (27.6 million euro versus 69.5 million euro in 2009).

COFIDE is the controlling **shareholder** of **CIR-Compagnie Industriali Riunite SpA**, the company at the head of an industrial group active in the energy, media and automotive components sectors and in healthcare and financial investments. The COFIDE group also includes **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.

Consolidated results

The consolidated revenues of COFIDE totalled 4,805.5 million euro in 2010, up from 4,266.8 million in 2009 (+12.6%). The consolidated gross operating margin (EBITDA) was 394.2 million euro, up by 36.6% compared to the figure for 2009 (288.6 million euro). The consolidated operating margin (EBIT) was 209.8 million euro, up by 47.9% from 141.9 million euro in 2009. The higher consolidated margins were due mainly to the significant rise in the profitability of the CIR group.

The financial management result, a negative 78.9 million euro, was mainly determined by net financial expense of 109.1 million euro, dividends and net gains from trading and valuing securities of 37 million euro and negative adjustments to the value of financial assets for 6.8 million euro. The change from the positive figure of 35.8 million euro for 2009 was mainly due to the non-recurring gains present last year.

Consolidated net income for 2010 came in at 22.9 million euro, down from 62.3 million euro in 2009. The change from last year was due essentially to the lower contribution of the subsidiary CIR (27.6 million euro versus 69.5 million euro in 2009), whose earnings in 2009 had benefited from non-recurring gains. Net of these gains, CIR's earnings in 2010 were higher than those of 2009. The net result of the subsidiary Euvis was a negative 2.1 million euro versus breakeven in 2009. This result was the consequence of the change-over from managing the portfolio directly to adopting a purely intermediary role which is less profitable, which was not sufficiently offset by the volumes of loans made. Moreover the result for the year was also affected by the cancellation of deferred tax assets with a limited maturity. At December 31 2010 the lifetime mortgages managed by Euvis amounted to 90.7 million euro, of which 36.1 million euro made during the year.

The net debt of the COFIDE holding at December 31 2010 amounted to **31.9 million** euro (31 million euro at September 30 2010 and 28.5 million euro at December 31 2009). The consolidated net financial debt of the COFIDE group stood at **2,194.6 million** euro at December 31 2010, versus 2,249.4 million euro at September 30 2010 and 1,824.7 million euro at December 31 2009.

Total consolidated shareholders' equity stood at **2,550.9 million** euro at December 31 2010, up from 2,363 million at December 31 2009. The **consolidated equity of the group** rose from 704.2 million euro at December 31 2009 to **747.4 million** euro at December 31 2010.

Results of the parent company COFIDE SpA

The parent company of the group, **COFIDE SpA**, closed 2010 with a loss of 3.6 million euro, which compares with net income of 1.4 million euro in 2009. The change was due to a lower financial operating result, which in 2009 included dividends of 7.3 million euro. Its shareholders' equity amounted to 565.6 million euro versus 565.7 million euro at December 31 2009.

Outlook for the year 2011

The performance of the COFIDE group in 2011 will be affected by the evolution of the macroeconomic scenario which is characterized by a recovery that is still weak. In this scenario, in view of the positive results obtained in 2010, the operating companies of the main subsidiary CIR will continue to take action to improve their operating efficiency while at the same time engaging in business development initiatives.

Proposed dividend

The Board of Directors has decided to propose to the Shareholders' Meeting the distribution of a dividend of 0.01 euro per share. The dividend will be paid out as from May 26 2011 against coupon no. 28 of May 23 2011. In the last two years the company did not distribute any dividends.

Shareholders' Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of COFIDE has been convened for April 28 at the first call and for April 29 2011 at the second call. The Board approved the following resolutions:

- To put before the Shareholders' Meeting, at an extraordinary meeting of the same, the proposal that certain amendments be made to the Company Bylaws to bring them into line with Legislative Decree no. 27 of January 27 2010;
- To put before the Shareholders' Meeting a motion to cancel and renew the Board's authorization for a period of 18 months to buy back a maximum of 30 million own shares, with a maximum disbursement limit of 25 million euro, at a unit price that cannot be more than 10% higher or lower than the benchmark price recorded by the shares on regulated markets on the trading day preceding each single buyback transaction.

The main reasons why this authorization is being renewed are, on the one hand, the possibility of investing in shares of the company at prices below their actual value based on the real economic value of its equity and its income generating prospects, and on the other hand, the possibility of reducing the company's average cost of capital.

 To put before the Shareholders' Meeting the proposal that the Rules for Shareholders' Meetings be amended to bring them into line with the amendments to the Company Bylaws approved by the Board of Directors on October 28 2010 as well as those being submitted to the approval of the Shareholders at the extraordinary meeting of the same.

The coming Meeting of the Shareholders will be called upon to approve the renewal of the Board of Statutory Auditors.

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).

Attached are key figures from the consolidated and statutory statements of financial position and income statements

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(in thousands of euro)

ASSETS		31.12.2010		31.12.2009
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		4,830,585		4,327,036
INTANGIBLE ASSETS		1,426,917		1,352,322
TANGIBLE ASSETS		2,554,399		2,187,892
INVESTMENT PROPERTY		24,742		18,965
INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY		319,469		275,899
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS		5,041		9,629
OTHER RECEIVABLES		179,259		208,075
of which with related parties (*)	277		4,480	
SECURITIES		100,772		83,051
DEFERRED TAXES		219,986		191,203
CURRENT ASSETS		2,882,252		2,476,754
INVENTORIES		151,283		156,150
CONTRACTED WORK IN PROGRESS		10,421		3,464
TRADE RECEIVABLES		1,137,448		1,042,030
of which from related parties (*)	7,992		18,032	
OTHER RECEIVABLES		181,140		204,465
of which with related parties (*)	1,371		1,727	
FINANCIAL RECEIVABLES		399,064		27,229
SECURITIES		229,259		338,264
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS		161,315		119,527
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		612,322		585,625
ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL		722		700
TOTAL ASSETS		7,713,559		6,804,490

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	31.12.2010	31.12.2009
EQUITY	2,550,939	2,363,015
SHARE CAPITAL	359,605	359,605
RESERVES	94,080	73,587
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	270,902	208,678
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	22,866	62,293
EQUITY OF THE GROUP	747,453	704,163
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,803,486	1,658,852
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,119,009	3,018,964
BONDS AND NOTES	547,455	718,262
OTHER BORROWINGS	2,171,116	1,903,227
OTHER PAYABLES	2,055	1,211
of which to related parties (*)		69
DEFERRED TAXES	193,228	181,489
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	124,958	137,856
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	80,197	76,919
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,043,611	1,422,511
BANK OVERDRAFTS	173,676	66,294
BONDS AND NOTES	157,978	731
OTHER BORROWINGS	529,453	192,499
of which from related parties (*)	2	2
TRADE PAYABLES	863,950	837,060
of which to related parties (*)	35,496	28,649
OTHER PAYABLES	236,203	3 230,249
PROVISIONS FOR RISKS AND LOSSES	82,351	95,678
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	7,713,559	6,804,490

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

COFIDE GROUP – CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	housand		

(in thousands of euro)		2010		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
		2010		2009
SALES REVENUES		4,805,467		4,266,865
of which from related parties (*)	150,680		60,674	
CHANGE IN INVENTORIES		2,886		(14,150)
COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS		(2,911,320)		(2,554,077)
of which from related parties (*)	(282,385)		(258,162)	
COSTS FOR SERVICES		(785,538)		(746,007)
PERSONNEL COSTS		(684,344)		(667,570)
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		104,615		103,867
of which from related parties (*)	707		709	
OTHER OPERATING COSTS		(175,104)		(139,953)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS				
CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY		37,517		39,679
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS		(184,366)		(146,746)
INCOME BEFORE FINANCIAL ITEMS AND TAXES (E B I T)	209,813		141,908
FINANCIAL INCOME		58,439		58,676
of which from related parties (*)	10,225		10,426	
FINANCIAL EXPENSE		(167,509)		(163,575)
of which with related parties (*)	(10,200)		(10,201)	
DIVIDENDS		108		587
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES		42,673		152,105
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES		(5,744)		(7,702)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS		(6,851)		(4,233)
INCOME BEFORE TAXES		130,929		177,766
INCOME TAXES		(13,247)		4,268
INCOME AFTER TAXES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY		117,682		182,034
INCOME (LOSS) FROM ASSETS HELD FOR DISPOSAL				
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS		117,682		182,034
INTERESTS		117,002		104,034
- NET INCOME MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS		(94,816)		(119,741
- NET INCOME OF THE GROUP		22,866		62,293
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0318		0.0866
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (in euro)		0.0318		0.0866

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

COFIDE GROUP - CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(in thousands of euro)

	2010	2009
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR INCLUDING MINORITY INTERESTS:	117,682	182,034
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS	184,366	146,746
SHARE OF RESULT OF COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED AT EQUITY	(37,517)	(39,679)
ACTUARIAL CHANGE IN STOCK OPTION PLANS	9,684	10,607
CHANGE IN PERSONNEL PROVISIONS, PROVISIONS FOR RISKS & LOSSES	(22,947)	24,983
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	11,851	4,233
CAPITAL GAIN ON SUBSCRIPTION OF CAPITAL INCREASES BY MINORITY		
SHAREHOLDERS		(76,735)
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NON-CURRENT RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES	12,594	(27,207)
(INCREASE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	(41,339)	83,464
OTHER CHANGES		(16,067)
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	234,374	292,379
of which:		
- interest received (paid out)		(65,235)
- income tax payments		(70,756)
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
(PURCHASE) SALE OF SECURITIES	64,084	356,077
PURCHASE OF FIXED ASSETS	(656,672)	(595,955)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	(592,588)	(239,878)
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
INFLOWS FROM CAPITAL INCREASES	39,116	187,851
OTHER CHANGES IN EQUITY	26,007	52,301
DRAWDOWN/(REPAYMENT) OF OTHER BORROWINGS	219,448	(204,182)
BUYBACK OF OWN SHARES	(91)	(1,160)
DIVIDENDS PAID OUT	(6,951)	(20,413)
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	277,529	14,397
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(80,685)	66,898
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF YEAR	519,331	452,433
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	438,646	519,331

COFIDE GROUP – STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CONSOLIDATED EQUITY

(in thousands of euro)	Attr	ibutable to	the Shareholders of	the parent comp	pany	Minority	Total
	Share capital	Reserves	Retained earnings (losses)	Net income (loss) for year	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)
Comprehensive result for the year							
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 released 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 year				62,293	62,293	119,741	182,034
Total comprehensive result for the year		(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						39,116	39,116
Dividends to Shareholders						(6,951)	(6,951)
Retained earnings		69	62,224	(62,293)			
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		6,061			6,061	(6,536)	(475)
Comprehensive result for the year							
Fair value measurement of hedging instruments		2,436			2,436	7,931	10,367
Fair value measurement of securities		8,227			8,227	5,215	13,442
Securities fair value reserve released to income statement		310			310	(62)	248
Effects of equity changes in subsidiaries		462			462	2,403	2,865
Currency translation differences		2,928			2,928	8,702	11,630
Result for the year				22,866	22,866	94,816	117,682
Total comprehensive result for the year		14,363		22,866	37,229	119,005	156,234
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2010	359,605	94,080	270,902	22,866	747,453	1,803,486	2,550,939

COFIDE S.p.A. – STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	31.12.2010	31.12.2009
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	580,457,959	579,513,313
TANGIBLE ASSETS	479,494	449,402
INVESTMENT PROPERTY	851,763	850,377
INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	579,038,003	578,073,136
OTHER EQUITY INVESTMENTS	0	0
OTHER RECEIVABLES	88,699	140,398
CURRENT ASSETS	47,503,133	108,462,938
OTHER RECEIVABLES	2,613,378	2,746,028
SECURITIES	29,778,439	74,275,946
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	15,111,316	31,440,964
TOTAL ASSETS	627,961,092	687,976,251
TOTAL AGGLIG	021,001,002	337,073,237
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	31.12.2010	31.12.2009
EQUITY	565,629,407	565,701,804
SHARE CAPITAL	359,604,959	359,604,959
RESERVES	162,461,273	158,878,584
RETAINED EARNINGS (LOSSES)	47,149,397	45,840,973
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(3,586,222)	1,377,288
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	404,088	60,234,150
OTHER BORROWINGS	0	59,868,363
OTHER PAYABLES	34,582	34,582
PERSONNEL PROVISIONS	369,506	331,205
CURRENT LIABILITIES	61,927,597	62,040,297
BANK OVERDRAFTS	4,928	4,157
OTHER BORROWINGS	59,958,996	60,000,532
TRADE PAYABLES	289,545	263,608
OTHER PAYABLES	1,674,128	1,772,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	627,961,092	687,976,251

COFIDE S.p.A. – INCOME STATEMENT

		% (**)	2010		% (**)	2009
SUNDRY REVENUES AND INCOME			1,295,049			1,572,426
	1.238.000	95.6%	1,293,049	1,531,360	97.4%	1,372,420
of which from related parties (*) COSTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS	1,230,000	95.6%	(47,606)	1,551,560	97.4%	(57 570)
COSTS FOR SERVICES			(2,603,155)			(57,570) (2,657,383)
of which from related parties (*)	(511,200)	19.6%	(2,000,100)	(634,800)	23.9%	(2,007,000)
PERSONNEL COSTS	(377,200)	13.078	(753,448)	(004,000)	20.070	(1,057,823)
OTHER OPERATING COSTS			(419,859)			(470,177)
AMORTIZATION, DEPRECIATION AND WRITE-DOWNS			(88,066)			(75,861)
OPERATING RESULT			(2,617,085)			(2,746,388)
FINANCIAL INCOME			1,594,354			1,468,532
of which from related parties (*)	0	0.0%		365,852	24.9%	
FINANCIAL EXPENSE			(1,678,898)			(3,959,074)
DIVIDENDS			0			7,271,548
of which from related parties (*)	0	0.0%		7,271,548	100.0%	
GAINS FROM TRADING SECURITIES			502,646			333,661
of which from related parties (*)	0	0.0%		172,661	51.7%	
LOSSES FROM TRADING SECURITIES			(473,230)			(766,483)
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS			(914,009)			(224,508)
INCOME / LOSS BEFORE TAXES			(3,586,222)			1,377,288
INCOME TAXES			0			0
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR			(3,586,222)			1,377,288
THE THE TEAT			(0,000,222)			1,011,200
BASIC EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE			(0.0050)			0.0019
DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE			(0.0050)			0.0019

^(*) As per CONSOB Resolution No. 6064293 of July 28 2006

^(**) Percentage of the whole

COFIDE S.p.A. – CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2010	2009
OPERATING ACTIVITY		
NET INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(3,586,222)	1,377,288
ADJUSTMENTS:		
AMORTIZATION AND DEPRECIATION	88,066	75,861
SUMS SET ASIDE TO PERSONNEL PROVISION NET OF WITHDRAWALS	38,301	(849,265)
LOSSES / (GAINS) ON THE SALE OF INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	(248,694)	(172,661)
LOSSES / (GAINS) ON THE SALE OF CURRENT SECURITIES	219,278	605,484
ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	914,009	224,508
(INCREASE) REDUCTION IN NET WORKING CAPITAL	60,715	36,434,939
of which with related parties	0	36,454,798
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITY	(2,514,547)	37,696,154
INVESTMENT ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	(716,173)	1,471,891
CHANGE IN TANGIBLE ASSETS AND INVESTMENT PROPERTY	(119,544)	(21,227)
CHANGE IN OTHER CAPITALIZED RECEIVABLES	51,699	(52,772)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITY	(784,018)	1,397,892
FUNDING ACTIVITY		
CHANGE IN OTHER BORROWINGS	(59,909,899)	(30,058,936)
NET CHANGE IN CURRENT SECURITIES	46,878,045	16,523,063
CASH FLOW FROM FUNDING ACTIVITY	(13,031,854)	(13,535,873)
INCREASE (REDUCTION) IN NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(16,330,419)	25,558,173
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT START OF YEAR (*)	31,436,807	5,878,634
NET CACH AND CACH FOLIWAL ENTS AT END OF VEAR (+)	45 400 000	04 400 007
NET CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR (*)	15,106,388	31,436,807

⁽ *) $\,$ Corresponds to cash and cash equivalents net of the item bank overdrafts.

COFIDE S.p.A. – CHANGE IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Share		Retained	Net income	
	capital	Reserves	Earnings (losses)	(loss) for year	Total
BALANCE AT JANUARY 1 2009	359,604,959	154,830,142	30,426,225	16,226,050	561,087,376
Allocation to reserve of result for the year 2008	0	811,302	15,414,748	(16,226,050)	0
Adjustment of securities to fair value:					
- Change in reserve	0	3,237,140	0	0	3,237,140
Result for the year 2009	0	0	0	1,377,288	1,377,288
Total comprehensive result for the year 2009	0	3,237,140	0	1,377,288	4,614,428
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2009	359,604,959	158,878,584	45,840,973	1,377,288	565,701,804
Allocation to reserve of result for the year 2009	0	68,864	1,308,424	(1,377,288)	0
Adjustment of securities to fair value:					
- Change in reserve	0	3,513,825	0	0	3,513,825
Result for the year 2010	0	0	0	(3,586,222)	(3,586,222)
Total comprehensive result for the year 2010	0	3,513,825	0	(3,586,222)	(72,397)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31 2010	359,604,959	162,461,273	47,149,397	(3,586,222)	565,629,407