



PRESS RELEASE

CIR GROUP: SALVATORE RICCO NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Beppe Pescetto leaves the Group

Milan, February 2, 2009 - Salvatore Ricco, 32, is the new Director of Communication of the CIR Group (Compagnie Industriali Riunite). Ricco will manage institutional communication activities and the press office. A member of the Association of Journalists and a graduate in Political Science, Salvatore Ricco comes from the Pirelli Group where he held the position of Head of the Corporate Press Office. He worked previously in the press offices of companies and communication agencies and as a freelance journalist.

At the same time, after 12 years Beppe Pescetto leaves his position as Director of External Relations of the CIR Group. The top management of the Group have expressed their appreciation for the professionalism that he has shown and for the results achieved in this long period of profitable cooperation.

CIR Group

CIR S.p.A (Compagnie Industriali Riunite), founded in 1976, is the company that heads an Italian industrial Group active in the energy sector (Sorgenia), in media (Espresso Group), automotive components (Sogefi), healthcare (HSS - Holding Sanità e Servizi) and financial services. In 2007 the CIR Group reported consolidated revenues of approximately 4.2 billion euro. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, CIR is controlled by Cofide S.p.A, the financial holding company of the De Benedetti family.

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