

Rome, March 1st 2007

Resignation Director Monti

Today, prior to the ordinary shareholders' meeting called to discuss the position of Prof. Ernesto Monti pursuant to art. 5 of ministerial decree 516/1998, Prof. Monti submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors of the company following a letter received today.

As a result of his resignation, there are no longer any items for discussion on the agenda of today's shareholders' meeting.

Prof. Monti, a non-executive and independent director, who was appointed by the shareholders' meeting of 12.07.2005 from a list submitted by minority shareholders, was also Chairman of the company's Internal Audit Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee.