



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CREMONINI GROUP: agreement with the English Granada Group to set up a new joint venture in restaurant services sector.**

The Cremonini Group has signed the Heads of Terms of an agreement with the English Granada Group to set up an English joint venture company between Cremonini S.p.A. (51%) and Granada Food Services (49%), a subsidiary of the Granada Group that leads the English hotel and commercial restaurant sectors with a turnover of about £ 4 billion.

This joint venture has been established specifically to bid for and win the tender to provide on board catering services to Eurostar trains running through Eurotunnel on the routes London-Paris and London- Brussels.

The outcome of the tender, for which Cremonini and Granada are already on the short list of finalists, will be announced the first quarter of 2000.

The Cremonini Group's presence within the partnership guarantees the know-how in on-board train services, while the role of the Granada Group with its specific knowledge of the English market will be to provide logistical support in terms of distribution and marketing.

The agreement with the Granada Group represents further consolidation of Cremonini's international presence in the restaurant activities sector, in which it already manages the services on-board the TGV connecting France to Italy as well as the high-speed trains in Switzerland (Cisalpino) and at the French railway station Lione Perrache.

Cremonini has been operating for 9 years in on-board train restaurant services in Italy, with exclusive management of these services for the Italian State Railways, through its Agape division with the Chef Express brand. It is, moreover, the leader in railway station restaurants with a market share of 27% and manages restaurants at 15 of the principal Italian railway stations.

**Cremonini**, which has over 3,000 employees and achieved consolidated revenues of Lire 2,019 billion (Euro 1.04 billion) in 1998, is one of the largest European food groups, focusing its activities in three integrated business areas: production, distribution and restaurant activities.

The Group, absolute leader in Italy in beef production and distribution to the catering sector; also has a major presence in the restaurant activities sector in which it recorded total revenues of Lire 194 billion (about Euro 100.2 million) in 1998, maintaining, in particular, leadership in the provision of restaurant services on-board train and at railway stations in Italy.

Total consolidated revenues for the first 6 months of 1999 recorded a growth of 7.6% with respect to 1998, increasing to Lire 1,048 billion (Euro 541 million), while consolidated pre-tax profit was equal to Lire 32.6 billion (Euro 16.8 million), an increase of 47%.

**The Granada Group**, which operates in the hotel, commercial restaurant and television/media sectors, recorded a consolidated turnover of £ 3.978 billion (about Lire 12,000 billion) in 1998.

Within the commercial restaurant sector the Granada Group manages the Little Chef (refreshment points with table service) chain, and is the absolute leader in providing restaurant services on the English national road routes.

Granada also operates numerous self-service restaurants on the motorways and its total restaurant division turnover was £ 1.611 billion (about Lire 4,833 billion).

In the hotel sector the Forte Hotel division manages about 400 hotels with 55,000 rooms, with well-known chains such as Le Meridien, Post House and Heritage.

Press office

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