

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**CREMONINI GROUP: total interim consolidated revenues at Lire 1,234 billion.**

**The 2nd quarter again registers a pre-tax profit of Lire 4.1 billion after the BSE crisis of the first 3 months.**

**The Group's growth in the business sectors of restaurant activities and Foodservice distribution continues, which now represents about 60% of the overall turnover.**

The Cremonini Group – a leading European operator in the food sector – ended the first half of 2001 with consolidated revenues of Lire 1,234 billion (Euro 637.4 million), slightly down with respect to the Lire 1,275 billion (Euro 658.6 million) of the 1st half-year of 2000.

This reduction, entirely realised in the first quarter, is due to the BSE crisis that, until the month of March, penalized the meat production sector. The second quarter's turnover was, instead, at the same levels for the same period of the preceding year.

The gross consolidated operating margin was Lire 66 billion (Euro 34.1 million), with respect to 80 billion (Euro 41.6 million) in the first half of 2000; the consolidated operating margin was Lire 20 billion (Euro 10.4 million) against Lire 36 billion (Euro 18.8 million) of the preceding financial year.

The Group pre-tax result was negative by Lire 22.9 billion (Euro 11.8 million), with respect to the profit of Lire 8.3 billion (Euro 4.3 million) of the first 6 months of 2000. The principal economic indicators of the half-year were penalized by the BSE phenomena, the effects of which were, however, entirely felt in the 1st quarter of 2001. In fact, commencing from the 2nd quarter, a generalized recovery of profitability was registered, which has again returned to the levels of the previous financial year.

In particular, in the 2nd quarter the consolidated pre-tax result was positive and equalled Lire 4.1 billion (Euro 2.1 million), the consolidated gross operating margin was Lire 47.1 billion (Euro 24.3 million) and the consolidated operating margin equalled Lire 24.5 billion (Euro 12.7 million).

At the interim level, amongst the business areas of the Group, the revenues of the restaurant activities sector grew from Lire 104 billion (Euro 53.7 million) of 2000 to Lire 166 billion (Euro 85.5 million) in 2001, equal to 13% of the overall turnover, an increase of 59%.

In the 1st half-year of 2001, foodservice distribution sector realised revenues of Lire 559 billion (Euro 288.6 million), equal to 45% of the total Group turnover, up by over 10% with respect to the Lire 506 billion (Euro 261.4 million) of 2000.

The food service distribution and restaurant activities sectors today represent about 60% of the total Group turnover, consistent with the corporate strategic development plans.

The production sector, instead, registered a fall in revenues of 22% with respect to the same period of the preceding financial year. In fact, the revenues were Lire 531 billion (Euro 274.4 million), equal to 41% of the overall turnover, with respect to Lire 683 billion (Euro 352.7 million) of the first half of 2000.

These, in summary, are the principal figures contained in the interim report at 30/06/2001, which the Board of Directors of Cremonini S.p.A. approved today at Castelvetro di Modena.

**Cremonini**, with over 4,300 employees, is one of Europe's largest food groups, with activities focussed in three business areas: production, foodservice distribution and restaurant activities.

The Group, with total revenues of Lire 2,689 billion (Euro 1,388.7 million) in 2000, is Italy's absolute leader in the production of beef and meat-based transformed products and in food marketing / distribution to Foodservice sector. It has, moreover, a significant presence in the restaurant activities sector and, in particular, the leadership in Italy in on-board train restaurant services and in railway stations.

Castelvetro di Modena, 13 September 2001