

## POSTE ITALIANE: ANOTHER FIRST HALF OF GROWTH

- **Total revenue of 9.4 billion euros up 11.4%**
- **Operating profit of 805 million euros up 7.2%**
- **Banco Posta current accounts up 2.6% to 5.5 million**
- **Postepay: European leader with 5 million prepaid cards**

Rome, 27 July 2009 – **Poste Italiane continued its run of growth in the first half of 2009**, with improvements in **operating profit** (up 7.2% to 805 million euros) and **total revenue** of 9.4 billion euros, marking growth of 11.4%. The Poste Italiane Group's interim report for the six months ended 30 June 2009, prepared under international financial reporting standards (IAS/IFRS), has been approved by Poste Italiane's Board of Directors at a meeting chaired by Giovanni Ialongo.

Revenue growth was driven above all by **Insurance Services**, which achieved 18.6% growth in earned premiums (up 454 million euros) and **Financial Services**, which report growth of 8.6% (up 201 million euros on the same period of 2008). **Postal Services**, on the other hand, have recorded a reduction of 5% (down 143 million euros), partly reflecting the growing use of electronic mail as opposed to the more traditional form of communication.

Thanks to the first-half operating performance, the Group reports consolidated net profit of 468 million euros for the period (up 16 million euros on the same period of 2008).

*"The first-half results,"* declared CEO, Massimo Sarmi, *"confirm the Company's strong operating performance, despite the difficulties encountered during the period and the increasing use of electronic mail, which is replacing the more traditional form of communication. The results are due reward for our strategies,"* continued Sarmi, *"which have enabled us to lead the way among international postal services providers, thanks to our significant ability to innovate and extend our service offering"*.

The addition of new services and the growth of web banking laid the foundations for a further rise in **BancoPosta** current accounts, which now total 5.5 million, marking an increase of 2.6% on 2008. Poste Italiane has also reinforced its leadership in the European prepaid card market with 5 million **Postepay** cards, representing growth of 10.5%. This has been accompanied by strong growth in the use of the payment services provided by PosteMobile, which in just over a year has acquired more than 1 million customers.

The Group's financial results for the period are available in summary form on the Company's website at [www.poste.it](http://www.poste.it) (in the "About us" section).

The manager responsible for Poste Italiane S.p.A.'s financial reporting, Alessandro Zurzolo, declares, pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 154-bis of the Consolidated Law on Finance, that the accounting information contained in this press release corresponds to the results documented in the books, accounting and other records of the company.

