

POSTE ITALIANE: 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Seventh consecutive FY in profit: net profit at € 883 million, +5%

Sarmi: recent years' excellent results consolidated, efficiency improved.

A rise in investments of over 17% to 712 million, almost half of which in ICT.

New Technological Hub created for the real-time management of services and all stages of logistics

Rome, 23 March 2009 – The 2008 Consolidated Financial Statements and the 2008 Draft Financial Statements of the Parent Company, both drafted in accordance with IAS/IFRS International accounting standards, were approved today by the Board of Directors of Poste Italiane chaired by Giovanni Ialongo.

The Poste Italiane Group, led by Massimo Sarmi, announced a positive operating performance for the seventh consecutive FY, recording **Net Profit of €882.6 million, up 4.6% (€843.6 million in 2007), and Operating Profit of €1.5 billion (1.78 in 2007).**

Total Revenue of € 17.9 billion, up 3.9%: in particular, results for the FY showed **financial and insurance services** holding up well (+ 2% and +7.7% respectively), with a small drop of 0.8% in **correspondence**.

Industrial investment registered a significant further rise of 17.1%, growing from the already-high 2007 figure of 608 million to 712 million, covering both technological innovation and reorganisation of the delivery sector as well as making it possible to create the new Technological Hub and more generally to forge ahead with the modernisation of systems and processes, thus improving overall quality. The quota of investments made by the Parent Company (which rose by 15.8% to 636 million, compared to 549 million in 2007) and earmarked for Information & Communication Technology (ICT) remains at close to 50%.

“Once again in 2008 our profits are on the rise and we have consolidated the excellent results achieved over the last few years – declared Managing Director Massimo Sarmi. These results bear out the validity of our strategic choices, aimed at guaranteeing continually-improving quality levels; they encourage us to continue to focus on innovation in terms of both services and products, so as to enable us to offer our clients cutting-edge solutions that are increasingly able to predict and to satisfy the ever-changing needs of the public”.

In 2008, for the second consecutive year, Poste Italiane's financial results and its ability to innovate allowed the company to move up the **Fortune** ratings that list the “World's Most Admired Companies”. The higher score achieved in the 2009 ratings saw Poste moving up among the world's finest postal operators, ahead of giants such as France's La Poste and Britain's Royal Mail and just behind Deutsche Post and Japan Post, gaining an enviable third position among the Italian companies featured on the list.

According to paragraph 2 of article 154-bis of the Consolidated Finance Act, the Executive appointed to draft corporate accounts, Mr. Alessandro Zurzolo, stated that the accounting information herein contained tallies with the company's documentary evidence, ledgers and accounts.