

**Press Release**

Lumezzane (BS), 19 February 2001

**Draft results published for the year ended 31 December 2000**

**SABAF:**  
**sales up 22.7% at 140 billion lire**  
**net profit up 31.8% at 19.9 billion lire**

**Operating profit equal to 22.3% of sales**

SABAF SpA, the Brescia company which is one of the world's leading manufacturers of components for domestic gas-cooking appliances, released today its draft consolidated results for 2000.

Once again the Sabaf Group has reported strong growth both in terms of its sales and margins.

Consolidated sales amount to 140.2 billion lire, an increase of 22.7% on the figure of 114.3 billion reported in 1999.

At 46.1 billion lire, the draft gross operating margin is 16.5% higher than the figure of 39.6 billion lire reported in 1999; operating profit amounts to 31.2 billion lire (22.3% of sales), representing an increase of 18.4% on the prior year figure of 26.4 billion lire.

Pre-tax profit is up 22.9% at 31.3 billion lire, while net profit is 31.8% higher at 19.9 billion lire.

As of 31 December 2000 the shareholders' equity of Sabaf Group equals to 94.9 billion lire, while the net financial debt equals to 15.2 billion lire.

*“Once again in 2000 we have achieved the ambitious targets we set for ourselves and strengthened still further our world-wide leadership in the sector”* declared Angelo Bettinzoli, Managing Director of Sabaf SpA. *“The moderate contraction in operating margins in the second half of the year is due to sharp rises in the cost of special aluminium and copper alloys, which we decided not to pass on in the sales price for 2000.”*

*“We expect growth in 2001 to at least equal that in 2000, although it will be more moderate in the first half partly due to a less dynamic economic situation than in the same period of last year” continued Bettinzoli, “The benefits of our more recent initiatives will start to be felt more tangibly in the second half of 2001 with the commencement of production in Brazil and the launch of new, highly innovative products.”*

The Board of Directors will meet on 19 March 2001 to examine the financial statements and results for the year ended 31 December 2000. The Company plans to present its results to the financial community on 28 March 2001 at the offices of Borsa Italiana.

*This press release is available on the Company's website: [www.sabaf.it](http://www.sabaf.it)*

*SABAF was founded in the '50s and has grown constantly to become the leading manufacturer in Italy and one of the top manufacturers world-wide of components for cookers and domestic gas-cooking appliances. Production consists of three main product lines: valves, thermostats and burners, all used in gas-cooking appliances. The Company's know-how, production flexibility and its ability to offer a wide range of components, often custom-made for individual manufacturers of cookers, hobs and built-in ovens in line with the individual specifications of the various reference markets, are fundamental points of strength for SABAF. This is a highly specialised sector, where demand is in constant evolution, increasingly geared to products that can guarantee absolute reliability and safety. The Sabaf Group has around 440 employees and consists of the parent company SABAF SpA and its subsidiaries, Faringosi Hinges Srl, leading manufacturer of hinges for ovens and dishwashers, and Sabaf do Brasil, which is about to start producing burners for the South American market. Sabaf also has a representative office in Shanghai (China). SABAF has been quoted on the electronic trading system of the Italian Stock Exchange since 24 March 1998.*