



Cap. Soc. Euro 11.333.500 i.v.

Press release

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The shareholders approved the 2000 financial statements

SABAF: dividend at 600 Lire

Net income at 20 bn Lire

The shareholders also approved the translation of the share capital into Euros

The shareholders of Sabaf S.p.A., the Italian company among the world leading manufacturers of components for domestic gas cooking appliances, met today in order to approve the 2000 financial statements

2000 has been a very successful year for the Sabaf Group, achieving record levels in terms of sales and earnings.

Consolidated net sales come to 140.2 billion lire, an increase of 22.7% on the 1999 figure of 114.3 billion.

The gross operating profit amounts to 46 billion lire, up 16.2% on the 39,6 billion in 1999, while the net operating profit is of 31.1 billion lire, 22.2% of sales (+18.2% on 26.4 billion in 1999).

Profit before taxation comes to 31.2 billion (+22.6%), while the consolidated net profit is of 19.9 billion lire (+31.9%)

Group shareholders' equity as of 31 December 2000 comes to 94.9 billion lire, while net debt is of 15.1 billion.

As far as the Parent Company Sabaf S.p.A. is concerned, net sales are of 137.1 billion lire (114.3 billion in 1999), the gross operating profit comes to 43.1 billion (36.6 billion as of 31/12/99) and the net operating profit has risen to 29.5 billion (24.7 billion the previous year). Profit before taxation amounts to 30.8 billion lire (24.0 billion in 1999) and the net profit is of 20.1 billion lire (14.2 as of 31/12/99)

The shareholders have approved the distribution of a gross dividend of 600 Lire per share, payable from next 24th May.

During the meeting, the Directors have informed the shareholders about the turnover of the first quarter of 2001, which closed with consolidated sales of 21.1 mn Euro, increased by 16% compared with the same period of 2000, while sales of SABAF S.p.A. amounted to 18.1 mn Euro, substantially in line with the same period of 2000.

“The current year started well – Mr. Bettinzoli declared - apart from the slow down of the Polish market, which anyway is showing recovery signs in April. We are therefore confident that we can furtherly improve our figures in the current and future quarters and reach, for the whole year, a growth rate not inferior to the year 2000. The start-up of the production in Brazil and the integration of Faringosi Hinges let us optimistic about our future.”

The shareholders have also authorized the Board of Directors to buy Sabaf’s own shares so as to meet two different requirements within the limits stated as follows.

- in order to settle, if necessary, the market price of the shares: up to 799,000 shares, or 7.050% of the share capital
- in order to buy back the shares granted to the employees in relation with two stock plans (whether the conditions stated in the regulations of the plans were not complied with): up to 333,500 shares, or 2.942% of the share capital

The shareholders have also approved new shareholders’ meeting rules.

The extraordinary shareholders’ meeting has also approved the translation of the share capital into Euros. The share capital is now made up of 11.333.5000 ordinary shares with a par value of 1,00 Euro each.

The Company informs that the Board of Directors will meet next 14th May in order to approve the 1st quarter report as of 31st March.

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 is composed of the holding company SABAF S.p.A. and of the subsidiaries Faringosi Hinges s.r.l., leader in the production of hinges for ovens and dishwashers and Sabaf do Brasil, which is going to start the production of burners for the South American market. Sabaf is also present in China with a representative office in Shanghai.

SABAF has been quoted on the electronic trading system of the Italian Stock Exchange since 24 March 1998 and since April 2001 has been part of STAR, the new high standard mid caps segment of the Italian Stock Exchange.