

## **ENEL: THIRD QUARTER EBIT AND NET INCOME UP**

*Despite tariff cuts and market liberalization*

Rome, November 14, 2000 – A meeting of Enel's Board of Directors, chaired by Chicco Testa, today examined and approved the consolidated accounts for the third quarter of 2000.

The Group's total revenues amounted to 5,897 million Euro, up 15.1% with respect to the same period of 1999, reflecting increased reimbursements to cover fuel costs (up from 1,485 to 2,310 million Euro).

In spite of tariff cuts, EBITDA totaled 2,153 million Euro, substantially on a par with the 2,158 million Euro the third quarter 1999 and 11.2% up on the 1,936 million Euro of second quarter 2000. This was thanks to ongoing improvements in efficiency and the current round of cost cutting initiatives.

EBIT amounted to 1,245 million Euro, 5.4% ahead with respect to the same period of the previous year and 28.2% up on second quarter 2000.

Net income of 501 million Euro was 6.1% up on the 473 million Euro of third quarter 1999.

The number of Enel Group employees stood at 75,106 at the end of September, representing a further reduction of 1.1% with respect to the end of June.

Italian demand for electricity during the third quarter rose 3.7% compared with the same period of 1999. The Enel Group sold a total of 55.9 billion kWh, compared with 58.5 billion kWh during the same period of 1999, reflecting liberalization of the market in which Enel, with sales of 6.0 billion kWh during the quarter and 15.7 billion kWh during the first nine months of 2000, has a share of approximately 51%. The balance sheet as of September 30, 2000 reports net invested capital of 30,010 million Euro (30,162 million Euro as of June 30, 2000). Net debt declined from 13,047 million Euro at the end of June to 12,393 million Euro at the end of September.

Revenues for the first nine months of 2000 totaled 17,239 million Euro (up 13.4% with respect to the first nine months of 1999), whilst EBITDA amounted to 6,393 million Euro (down 3.5% compared with the first nine months of 1999) and EBIT to 3,636 million Euro (down 6.6% compared with the first nine months of 1999).

The strong third quarter figures have enabled the Group to achieve an improved performance over the first nine months with respect to the first half.