



## **ENEL: INFOSTRADA ACQUISITION APPROVED**

Rome, March 16, 2001 – Enel's Board of Directors today approved the acquisition of Infostrada from Mannesman AG, a Vodafone Group company.

The transaction, which has already received the go-ahead from Vodafone, will be submitted to Mannesman's Supervisory Board not later than March 23 and will see Enel pay a total of 7,250 million euro for 100% of the share capital of Infostrada, without any further adjustments.

The transaction is due to be closed on March 29, 2001.

In accordance with the previously agreed conditions, Enel is to take on Infostrada's debt totaling 1,300 million euro, including between 950 and 1,000 million euro due to Vodafone, to be repaid on closing the transaction together with the acquisition price.

With 3.5 million fixed-line customers and 4.1 million Internet subscribers as of December 31, 2000, Infostrada is the largest alternative operator to Telecom Italia. Infostrada earned revenues of 932 million euro in the year to December 31, 2000, reporting positive EBITDA of 12 million euro.

The merger of Wind with Infostrada will create Italy's second biggest telecommunication operator. The new company will boast a total of 5.4 million mobile and 6.2 million fixed-line customers, as well as being Italy's leading Internet portal with 5.8 million subscribers.

New Wind, whose operations are rooted in the principle of convergence between the sector's different areas of activity, has based its development strategy around the goal of being a leading player in the Italian and European telecommunication markets.

Finally, Enel confirms its intention to float the company deriving from the merger by the end of 2001, as agreed with the other shareholder, France Telecom.

Enel's financial advisor during the transaction was Lazard.