Board of Directors approves the draft of 2001 consolidated accounts.

Consolidated sales growing considerably to Euros 235,7 million (+11,2% compared to 2000), consolidated net profits of Euros 13,1 million (Euros 12,9 million in 2000), gross operating margin at Euros 54,6 million (+5,9% on the Euros 51,5 million in 2000).

Proposal for dividend of Euros 0,0543 to be paid on 23 May 2002.

Consolidated sales Euros 235,7 million (+11,2% up from Euros 212 million in 2000), cash flow amounted to Euros 42,6 million (+7% up from 2000), the gross operating margin came in at Euros 54,6 million (+5,9% on the Euros 51,5 million in 2000) and net profit advanced to Euros 13,1 million compared to Euros 12,9 million in 2000.

These are highlights of the consolidated figures approved earlier today by the Board of Directors of SOL S.p.A., a company listed on the Italian Stock Exchange that acts as holding company to a multination group involved in the area of technical gases and home medical assistance.

At the upcoming shareholders' meeting, called for April 29, 2002 in Monza, the company's Board of Directors will propose distribution of a dividend of Euro 0,0543 per ordinary share (Euro 0,05423 the dividend in 2000), to be paid from May 23, 2002.

Despite of the economic situation, reflecting stagnation in traditional customers' consumption, the sales growth abroad and by the home-care business wide development produced the best performance of the sales increase of the Group in the last years.

In particular in the technical gases area, the iron and steel industry, the automotive and shipbuilding industry has been influenced by not good economic cycle, while the sales increased in chemical, agroindustrial, environmental and electronic sectors. Research and development of new technologies, introducing improvement in customer production processes pushed the growth.

In the home-care business, in which the Group operates through Vivisol, was confirmed the upward trend seen over the last few years.

Despite of the heavy increase of transport and fuel costs, specially in Italy, the consolidated gross operating margin increased till Euros 54,6 million (23,2% of sales).

Operating consolidated cash flow amounted to Euros 42,6 million (+7% up from the Euros 39,8 million in 2000), while the net financial debt is Euros 42,9 million (Euros 28,9 million at 31.12.00), registered an increase firstly due to the relevant investment in production activity and slightly to the working capital increase. Strong the net debt - equity ratio equal to 22%.

The capital expenditures of the Group during the current year were Euros 47,7 million (Euros 34,3 million in 2000). The increase over 2000 was mainly due to the work in progress of the new Asu plant building up in Mantova, becoming operative at the end of 2002.

"*The results achieved in the year 2001*", affirmed Aldo Fumagalli Romario, Chairman of SOL S.p.A., "*are a reflection of the sound performance posted by our Group, with solid growth being achieved in terms of good growing sales and steadily profitability, despite of the economic situation slowdown. We shall continue to firm up our presence in Europe and constantly strengthen our home care activities.* "

"*In the year 2002*", concluded Aldo Fumagalli Romario, "*we expect a growth of turnover with a stable profitability as in 2001, although the strong rise of the energy costs, which lasting till the deregulation of national electric market and till the energy supply for the big Italian consumers*".

Milan, March 28, 2002