



Press release

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The former Head of the 0th largest Italian supermarket chain, GS, takes over as Paolo Prota Giurleo resigns after 13 years. Gilberto Benetton thanks the leading figure of the Company's internasionalisation

Livio Buttignol appointed CEO of Autogrill S.p.A.

Milan, 2000 - Today's Autogrill S.p.A. [AGL.MI] Board of Directors, chaired by Mr. Gilberto Benetton announced the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Paolo Prota Giurleo's, has resigned. The Board of Directors appointed Livio Buttignol as new CEO.

"After so many years as Autogrill's CEO, time has come to seek for new managerial challenges" Prota Giurleo said. "I wish to thank Edizione Holding, Autogrill largest stockholder, for 6 years of relentlessly exciting growth" he added.

Gilberto Benetton said: "We thank Mr. Prota-Giurleo for his 13 years long commitment in leading Autogrill. During this time he significantly contributed to transform a 500 bn. Lire company into a steadily growing, 6,000 bn. Lire turnover, multinational corporation."

Livio Buttignol, 59, holds a degree in Business Administration. He had been appointed Member of the Board of Autogrill last April after having served with various industrial and distribution companies and 25 years with GS, (supermarkets) first as Chief Financial Officer and Controller, then as Managing Director between 1983 and 1987 and successively Chief Executive Officer between 1987 and 2000. In April 2000 he was requested by Edizione Holding to become a Member of the Board of Autogrill S.p.A.

With Buttignol GS grew from 1,500 bn. Lire turnover to 8,500 in 1999; Ebitda grew from 50 bn. Lire to 450 in 1999. Buttignol designed and implemented GS development over the past years also through important acquisitions such as Euromercato and Garosci. Before the sale of GS to the Carrefour Group [CARR.PA] occurred earlier this year, Edizione Holding, the financial arm of the Benetton Family, held a 32% stake in GS.

"Mr. Buttignol is the ideal successor for the Autogrill CEO assignment", said Mr. Gilberto Benetton. "We want to continue Autogrill geographic expansion and unique approach towards people on the move by excellently combining the highest quality in service with the advantages of an industrial cost structure and an outstanding marketing expertise", he added. Mr. Benetton also pointed out that: "We witness since a few years, a quickly paced, substantial and coherent value creation coming through and on its way to successfully continue. Today's change in the top management will ensure the best possible conditions to further exploit value creation, accomplish the company's expansion as planned and maintain the several world-wide leadership positions we currently enjoy".



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Livio Buttignol

Born 1941, holds a degree in Business Administration from the Milan Catholic University. He worked with several industrial and food companies. In 1974 he was hired by Società Generale Supermercati, GS, (supermarkets) as Chief Financial Officer and Controller. In 1983 He was appointed Managing Director of the company and, successively, as of 1987, he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

Paolo Prota Giurleo

Born 1943 in Modena, holds a degree in Business Administration from the Milan Catholic University and was further educated at INSEAD Fontainebleau.

He worked with Unilever (consumer goods) between 1963 and 1974 in sales and marketing. Then he joined Società Generale Supermercati, GS, (supermarkets) where he was Sales Director until 1980. For 7 years he was involved as manager and entrepreneur in a food products manufacturing company. He joined Autogrill in January 1987, designed the development and internationalisation of the company and held the top position until today's resignation.