



Press release

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## **Demand for alternative products buffers slowdown in consumption of beef items**

### **Autogrill assesses mad cow impact**

Milan, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2001 - Autogrill released the following statement with regard to the impact of the "mad cow" phenomenon on sales:

In the first five weeks of 2001, sales in Burger King outlets – which account for less than 1% of total group revenues in Italy – were 23.2% below budget projections, but 74% up on the figure for the first five weeks of 2000. Overall revenues for the Quick Service Restaurant Division (QSR) were 2.1% higher than budget projections (and up 22% compared with the corresponding year-earlier period) thanks to the strong performance of the Spizzico outlets, whose revenues were 11.2% above budget projections and 22% higher than revenues for the first five weeks of 2000.

As the above figures clearly indicate, Autogrill is responding successfully to the albeit critical repercussions of the BSE question on the Italian market.

Performance in the first five weeks of 2001 confirmed the growth trend in Group revenues in Italy, which rose 8.2% compared with the year-earlier period and were 2.1% up on budget projections.

The Autogrill group has approximately 900 locations in 20 countries. Its overseas operations (including the United States) account for about two thirds of revenues. The group expects to report revenues of more than 3 billion euro and post a profit for 2000.