



Press release

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The Autogrill-Ristop proceedings end without administrative sanctions

Milan, 28th July 2003 - Autogrill respectfully accepts today's decision of the Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato (Italian Antitrust Authority), which ended proceedings regarding alleged abuse of a dominant position relating to the proposed acquisition of Ristop (a proposal which was not concluded, however, following the veto of the same Antitrust Authority).

The company is satisfied regarding the fact that the Authority did not impose any administrative sanctions, having acknowledged that Autogrill's proposal gave rise to no severe breach of the antitrust regulations. The decision thereby does justice to the serious and groundless charges which were brought by Compass, world leader in industrial foodservice, which had initiated proceedings with its complaint and had requested that Autogrill be heavily sanctioned.

However, the company is disappointed by the fact that, according to the Authority, the acquisition of Ristop would have had the intention to delay the entry of foreign competitors in Italy. Autogrill, on the contrary, maintains that it clearly proved in court that the acquisition of Ristop was the result of a completely independent proposal of that company's shareholders, after they had terminated previous negotiations with Compass. Autogrill had simply identified a market opportunity, without any abusive intent.

Autogrill maintains that it has shown with its businesses in Italy and abroad that, over the years, its only objective is to be able to compete on the basis of the quality of its services and the professionalism of its employees.