



Honour conferred by French President Nicolas Sarkozy

## **Gilberto Benetton a knight of the French Legion of Honour**

Paris, 16 November 2011 – Gilberto Benetton, chairman of Autogrill SpA and Edizione Srl, will receive today a knighthood of the French Legion of Honour. This, one of the most important honours in France, will be conferred by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in an official ceremony at the Élysée Palace.

Born in Treviso in 1941, Gilberto Benetton started up the Benetton Group business with his sister Giuliana and brothers Luciano and Carlo in 1965. The Group is now a world leading force in fashion with operations in 120 countries. Gilberto Benetton is chairman of Edizione Srl (the family holding company) and Autogrill and a company director in various groups including Benetton and Atlantia.

The Benetton family has a wide range of business activities in France.

- Benetton's first point of sale outside Italy was opened in Paris, on boulevard St. Germain, in 1969. Today, **Benetton Group** has 130 points of sale in France, with around 500 employees, and posted revenues of over €50m in France in 2010.
- France is where **Autogrill** Group launched its international development around 18 years ago. The Group now operates in 35 countries and produces 80% of its sales (€5.7 billion in 2010) outside Italy. Autogrill France employs 4,000 people and offers food&beverage services in over 400 points of sale; in 2010 it posted revenues of over €270m.
- In October 2011, acting through Autostrade per l'Italia, **Atlantia** Group entered an agreement with the French Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing Ministry (MEDDTL) to build and operate a satellite mandatory toll collection system for heavy vehicles on motorways (Eco Taxe Poids Lourds), to enter service in summer 2013.

### **Autogrill Group in France**

France it is now Autogrill's biggest f&b market in Europe after Italy in terms of size and multi-channel coverage. The company runs the largest motorway service area in the country, Montélimar on the A7, which was completely rebuilt on the eastbound side in 2010. Autogrill started up in France in 1993, when it acquired Les 4 Pentes (Elitar Group). Over the years the Company has strengthened its presence in the country through organic growth and the acquisitions of Sogerba (motorway channel) and Frantour Restauration, with which it launched its railway station business. In 2009, the Group opened Europe's biggest food court, Restaurants du Monde, at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris.



### **Benetton Group in France**

In 1969, four years after the founding of the brand, Benetton opened its first store outside Italy, on Boulevard Saint-Germain in Paris. Today, Benetton Group has around 130 points of sale in France, with around 500 (direct and indirect) employees, and posted sales of around €50m in 2010. In 2006, the Group celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Centre Pompidou with a fashion show evoking the brand's history and values: freedom, democracy of taste and Italian and universal lifestyle.

### **Atlantia Group in France**

In January 2011, the French government chose Autostrade per l'Italia (ASPI) to build and operate a satellite-based motorway toll collection system for heavy vehicles. The project is part of a package of measures taken by the French Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing Ministry (MEDDTL) involving an eco-tax (Eco Taxe Poids Lourds) on heavy vehicles (over 3.5 tons) on part of the country's 15,000 km network, to be introduced in summer 2013. Similar to the Europass developed by ASPI for the Austrian government in 2004, the system will be built and operated by Ecomouv, a consortium formed by Autostrade per l'Italia (70%), Thales (11%), SNCF (10%), SFR (6%) and Steria (3%). ASPI's bid was based on a commitment to local development involving the creation of 300 jobs. The contract is to run for 13 years and provides for a 21-month initial design and construction phase followed by 11½ years of operation and maintenance.