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PRESS RELEASE

Europe and Russia on tour at the Headquarters of Marchesini Group

The Russian Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. Khristenko and the Vice-President of the European Committee, Mr. Verheugen, visited the district of advanced mechanics of Emilia Romagna: their first stop was in Bologna, at the headquarters of Marchesini Group

Bologna, 20th November 2009 – The Vice-President of the European Committee, **Mr. Günter Verheugen** and the Minister for Trade and Industry of the Russian Federation, **Mr. Viktor Borisovich Khristenko**, visited the **headquarters of Marchesini Group** in Pianoro (Bologna) on the 20th November.

That of Pianoro was just one of the legs of the tour in Emilia Romagna of the Russian Minister, Mr. Khristenko and of the Vice-President, Mr. Verheugen. Their trip was organized by the **Representatives of the European Committee in Milan** in collaboration with the **Industrialists Association Delegation in Brussels** and the **Industrialists Association in Emilia-Romagna**. The idea to visit Marchesini was fostered by Mr. Verheugen himself during a meeting with the Vice-President of the Industrialists Association for Europe, Mr. Andrea Moltrasio.

Model Emilia, the Russians study the regional district of advanced mechanics.

The **advanced mechanics industry of Emilia-Romagna** has been chosen as a model of excellence in terms of “**business cluster**” at a European level. The industry – which brings together various segments, among which automatic machinery, packaging, tile-manufacturing machines, food processing machines, meccatronics, automotive, motorcycles, machine tools and wood working machinery – boasts approximately **20 thousand regional businesses. 95% are small and medium sized enterprises** and **54% represents the regional export share**. It contributes in the **regional GDP of the manufacturing industry by roughly 40%**.

The visit to Marchesini Group

During the press conference held in Bologna, at **Marchesini Group Spa**, the Vice-President, Mr. Verheugen and the Russian Minister, Mr. Viktor Borisovich Khristenko explained how the initiative fits into the context of the actions fostered by the Committee with the aim to reinforce business relations between the EU and Russia in the field of industrial politics and to illustrate the examples of best practices fulfilled in the various countries of the European Union.



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At this important meeting **Mr. Maurizio Marchesini**, CEO of Marchesini Group and President of Unindustria Bologna, was accompanied by the Vice-President of the regional Industrialists Association, **Mr. Mario Riciputi** and **Mr. Carlo Corazza**, Director of the Representatives of the European Committee in Milan.

“The initiative – the Russian Minister Mr. Khristenko commented – will continue to develop cooperative relations between Italy and Russia. I was impressed with what I saw during my visit to Marchesini Group. We came to Bologna to study the advanced mechanics that distinguish this area and a model that has over thirty years of experience. We are convinced that it is what we need to do in our country too and we are indeed moving in this direction taking reference from the situation in Emilia”. “I am enthusiastic – Mr. Verheugen added – with what I have seen here at Marchesini Group and I trust that Europe will continue to aim at innovation”.

Marchesini Group

With over 9.000 machines produced, over 2.000 lines installed around the world, a Group revenue of 175 million Euro in 2008 and orders constantly on the rise, Marchesini Group is a leading supplier of stand-alone machines and complete lines for the pharmaceutical and cosmetic packaging industries. With 14 production divisions, 7 companies acquired and also a partner company, the Group is able to offer “turnkey” product lines in the primary and secondary packaging industry, providing some of the most cutting edge solutions around, from a technological point of view. Established in 1974 following an idea of Mr. Massimo Marchesini, Marchesini Group now counts 1.000 employees spread between 11 divisions on the reference markets (in Great Britain, America, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Germany, France, Benelux, Spain, India, the Middle and Far East) and a network of 20 agencies, which have developed along with the company with the aim to highlight the company’s dedication to Customer service. The Group’s strong international vocation, which generates 85% of the turnover from exports, is offset by products that are totally “made in Italy”.

For information: www.marchesini.com

For further information:

<http://www.marchesini.com/en/news-events/press-office/press-review/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoakyhCik8k>

In attachment:

Photo 1 - One moment of the press conference held in Bologna at Marchesini Group Spa.

Photo 2 - The visit to Marchesini Group: on left, Maurizio Marchesini, The Vice-President of the European Committee, Mr. Günter Verheugen and the Minister for Trade and Industry of the Russian Federation, Mr. Viktor Borisovich Khristenko

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