



PRESS RELEASE

ENEL: ENTRY INTO GAS DISTRIBUTION TAKES OFF WITH THE ACQUISITION OF COLOMBO GAS

First remarkable step into the multifunction strategy

Rome, January 14, 2000 – The final agreement for the acquisition of 100% of Colombo Gas by Enel has been underwritten today in Rome.

The deal has been reached very much longer before the expiry date of the 90-day exclusive agreement to finalise the operation which was signed last November.

The Colombo Gas Group operates in the secondary market for natural gas distribution in Piedmont, Lombardy and Emilia regions and it owns 1,290 Km. of pipelines serving about 76,000 customers, targeted at 200,000 within the next 12 months.

In 1998 Group's turnover amounted to ITL 88 billion, and net profit to ITL 3.7 billion. During 1998 it distributed about 190 million cubic metres of gas, of which about 77% bound to domestic customers.

The Colombo Gas Group owns 61 concessions expiring on average within 20 years.

This operation states Enel step into the gas distribution market, which is featured by remarkable growth opportunities and represents a relevant progress in pursuing the multifunction strategy

The completion of the acquisition is subject only to Antitrust approval.