



## PRESS RELEASE

**Energy produced will also supply Italian market**

### **ENEL: 100 MW HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT IN ALBANIA**

*To be built and operated by Enelpower which is to invest of US\$ 160 million*

Rome, February 24, 2000 – Enelpower (an Enel Group company) is to partner the Becchetti Energy Group in the building and operation of a 100 MW hydroelectric plant on the Vjosa river in southern Albania.

The power plant, which is to be operated under a thirty-year concession from the Albanian government, will be located in the Kalivac gorge.

The project, which also envisages construction of a dam, represents an investment of approximately US\$ 160 million to be funded via project financing.

Construction is to start during 2000 with the plant due to come on stream in 2004.

Enelpower will be responsible for overall management of plant operations and for the necessary engineering and construction works.

The plant is to be hooked up to the Albanian and Greek national grids. The energy produced will also be sold on the Italian market via the submarine cable, linking Italy and Greece, currently being laid between Otranto and Aetos by Terna (Enel Group). The cable is scheduled to enter service in 2001.

The Albanian project follows hard on the heels of the announcement of the company's involvement in the construction and operation of two combined cycle power plants in Argentina, capable of providing 500 MW, and the joint venture for the building and operation of a 600 MW combined cycle plant on the border between Greece and Turkey.