



SO.L.E (Enel Group): TO SUPPLY ENERGY FOR THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE TAKING PART IN THE ECORAID TOUR OF LAZIO

7 stages to demonstrate the potential of electric vehicles to link different cities

Rome, September 24, 2000 – The first ever tour of Lazio using an electric vehicle, the Ecoraid Tour, was seen off from Rome this morning by Giuseppe Nucci, the Managing Director of So.l.e (an Enel Group company) and Marco Verzaschi, Lazio Regional Authority's Environment Minister.

The vehicle is to be driven by Vito Paolo Quinto and Antonio Stango, the holders of the national distance record for an electric car.

So.l.e. is to supply the energy for the vehicle via special recharging points (dubbed "biberon" or feeding bottles), designed and built by the company with a view to backing the development of electric powered vehicles.

At an equal constant average speed of 80 Km/h, one of today's electric vehicles consumes ITL 6,000 every 100 Km, compared to ITL 15,600 for a petrol-driven vehicle. This results in an average cost of ITL 56 per kilometer for electric powered vehicles and ITL 156 per kilometer for those fueled by petrol.

Ecoraid is divided into seven stages and will pass through the principal municipalities in the Lazio region (Rome, Ostia Lido, Fiumicino, Viterbo, Rieti, Frosinone, Latina, Anzio), before finishing in the center of Rome on September 30.

The tour of Lazio by an electric vehicle, which is to include meetings between representatives of So.l.e. and local authorities, aims to demonstrate the concrete possibility for electric vehicles to cover routes linking different cities.

Giuseppe Nucci declared that: *"So.l.e. wishes to use the initiative to provide proof that electric vehicles are capable of covering distances not only within but outside cities, whilst offering a significant saving with respect to the cost per kilometer of petrol-driven vehicles."*

So.l.e. has long been committed to spreading the use of electric means of transport. We have already installed a large number of recharging points in Turin and Florence, and around 300 requests have been received from other municipalities".

The Lazio Regional Authority's Environment Minister, Marco Verzaschi, added: *"We believe that the increased use of electric vehicles represents one of the ways of improving the environment in our cities, via integration with public transport, particularly in view of the recent rise in the price of oil. As a Ministry we intend to assess the possibility of backing the development of electric vehicles, including the installation of electric recharging circuits."*

The first tour of Lazio to be carried out by an electric vehicle will terminate in Villa Borghese (P.le Bioparco), Rome on Saturday, September 30, 2000.