



## **OMNITEL APPEALS TO REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT (TAR): THE DECISION OF THE ANTITRUST AUTHORITY IS UNJUST**

Milan, 1st October 1999

Today's decision by the Antitrust Authority, which accuses Omnitel of conducting itself in an anti-competitive manner, is unjust and disproportionate. The accusation is unfounded: throughout Europe to date rates for fixed-mobile calls are the same for all national operators.

The Antitrust Authority has thus rewritten the recent history of Italian telecommunications between 1995 and today, ignoring the reality that mobile telephone customers have had, thanks to Omnitel, 23 successive price reductions and an overall reduction in the cost of using a mobile telephone in the region of 50% over 4 years.

Public opinion has certainly been able to witness the tough competition which Omnitel and TIM have created in the market, while new operators continued to enter into the competition. All of this has been ignored by the Antitrust Authority, disparaging all of the innovation which has happened in Italy over these years, thanks partly to the action of the national and European Institutions. The liberalisation of the entire telecommunications sector in Italy has, between 1995 and today, been admired around the world for the technological and market development which it has been able to produce.

Omnitel, proud of its contribution to the Italian economy and to the development of competition, will appeal to any jurisdiction against this decision by the Antitrust Authority, to have its motives valued, to re-establish the truth, and to protect the name of the company and work of the people who work for it.