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Press Release

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Hermes files proposals for Italmobiliare General Meeting

- **Voluntary conversion of savings shares into ordinary shares**
- **Salvatore Bragantini proposed as Director on the Board,**
- **Pierluigi de Biasi proposed as Chairman of the Board of Auditors**

Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe ("HFAME") submitted a resolution for inclusion in the agenda of the General Meeting of Italmobiliare, convened for the 29th of April (2nd call on the 30th of April).

HFAME is proposing to amend the articles of the company to allow holders of savings shares to convert each savings share, on a voluntary basis, into one ordinary share of the company. The proposal is aimed at removing the corporate governance and financial distortions arising from the significant use of non-voting shares in the group.

HFAME further proposes the election respectively of Mr. Salvatore Bragantini as independent director of the board of Italmobiliare and of Mr. Pierluigi de Biasi as independent Chairman of the Board of Auditors. Both proposals are made as part of the minority list provisions under the company's recently amended articles. In complying with the minimum requirements under Italian law, at Italmobiliare one board seat and the position of Chairman of the board of auditors are reserved for election by minority shareholders.

Reasons for submitting the proposals:

Compared to the estimated net asset value per share of EUR 78 both ordinary and savings shares have been trading at significant discounts, reflecting various concerns about the company's corporate governance and capital structure. The net asset value per share as at 9 April 2008 as estimated by HFAME based on Italmobiliare's disclosures was 90% and 25% higher than the stock market values of saving and ordinary shares respectively.

Overall, HFAME believes that Italmobiliare's variously underperforming operations, business prospects and stock market valuation for both ordinary and savings shares would benefit from the introduction of the conversion right.

The benefits of a right to a voluntary conversion include:

- Upon conversion of savings shares, trading liquidity in Italmobiliare's ordinary shares should be greatly enhanced, removing one obstacle to a higher stock market valuation of these shares; upon conversion of substantially all savings shares it is not

unlikely that the overall trading liquidity in Italmobiliare equity will be better than under the previous structure;

- Upon conversion of savings into ordinary voting shares, equity shareholders would be increasingly able to exercise meaningful and more equitable corporate governance oversight of Italmobiliare; shareholder control is concentrated in the hands of a single Italian family who hold a minority position in the company's total share capital;

The benefits of an appointment of Mr. Salvatore Bragantini and Mr. De Biasi respectively include:

- the appointment of Mr. Bragantini would introduce a new dimension of independence on the Board of Directors, while adding to the overall competence of the board itself. Mr. Bragantini has considerable credentials as an experienced manager, regulator and independent director. He is independent and his nomination is made without involvement of the controlling family.
- the appointment of Mr. De Biasi as Chairman of the Board of Auditors would, therefore, introduce a new dimension of independence on this board while adding to its overall competence. His independence is especially useful in light of the fact that the company – represented by one member of the controlling family – is providing CEO services to Italcementi and is, therefore, exposed to alleged illegal activities in Calcestruzzi. Mr. De Biasi has considerable credentials as lawyer and Chairman of Boards of Auditors in publicly listed Italian companies. He is independent and his nomination is made without involvement of the controlling family.

Notes to editors:

About Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe ("HFAME")

Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe Ltd. ("HFAME") is the manager of the Hermes European Focus Fund, one of the specialist shareholder engagement funds of Hermes, a major European institutional fund management organisation. As at 31 December 2007, Hermes had over € 100 billion of assets under management, advice and stewardship; at the same date, HFAME had funds under management of ca. EUR 2.1 billion invested in continental European equities on behalf of 24 institutional investors from across the globe (including 22 pension funds, together representing over 8 million members and beneficiaries).

HFAME currently owns approximately 2.8% of the voting capital of Italmobiliare and 3.9% of the saving shares in issue.

HFAME is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Salvatore Bragantini

Born in Imola in 1943, Salvatore Bragantini is a graduate in Business Administration of the Università Statale in Roma.

After his graduation, he started his career at Arthur Andersen & Co as auditor; he then worked as an investment analyst at ISAP SpA (part of the IRI Group) and as credit analyst at IMI. In 1975, he moved to Comerint SpA (ENI Group) as financial advisor to the CEO. He then moved to FIME SpA, where he was involved in corporate development and mergers & acquisitions until 1982.

In November 1982, he became Vice Direttore Generale of SO.FI.PA with a focus on private equity investments. From 1987 to 1996 he managed ARCA Merchant SpA as General Manager. In April 1994 he was appointed as CEO of Arca Impresa Gestioni SpA, a role he held until 1996, when he was appointed as Commissioner at CONSOB (the Italian financial markets regulator).

In 2001 he became CEO of Centrobanca SpA, the Italian investment and corporate bank, and a director of Centrobanca Sviluppo Impresa Sgr.

Since September 2005 he has been Chairman of I2 Capital Partners Sgr, the manager of the closed-end fund "I 2 Capital Partners". Since January 2007, he has also been Chairman of Pro MAC SpA, (Italy's alternative capital market).

Among others, Mr. Bragantini is non-executive Deputy Chairman of IW Bank SpA, independent director of Interpump Group SpA and independent director of Sabaf SpA (where he is also member of the audit committee), all of which are listed companies.

He is also the Italian representative (appointed by CONSOB) in the "Market Participants Consultive Panel", assisting the CESR – Committee of European Securities Regulators – in implementing measures for EU laws and regulations.

Pierluigi De Biasi

Born on July 30th, 1956 in Milan, graduated in law in 1980 at the University of Milan, with full marks, discussing a paper on civil law.

Admitted to the Italian Bar Association in 1983, is allowed to appear in front of the Supreme Court.

From 1984 to 1987 practiced with Baker & McKenzie, Milan, then in 1987 was founding partner of De Biasi & Rapini law firm.

Since January 2008 equity partner with Agnoli Bernardi e Associati, in Milan.

He focuses on corporate and banking law, securities regulations, financing agreements, M&A and private equity. He is counsel to AIFI, the Italian private equity and venture capital association, and to ASSOSIM, the Italian stockbrokers association.

He has been board member or statutory auditor of several, including listed, companies, and currently is Chairman of the board of statutory auditors of Permasteelisa SpA and Banca Italease SpA, both listed on Borsa Italiana.

Since the academic year 1998/99 has been visiting professor of Markets Regulations at the University of Siena and since the academic year 2001/2002 professor at the MMB (Master in Merchant Banking) at the University of Castellanza.

Author of three books on legal topics and also of many articles in various Italian law reviews on company law, derivatives, securities and banking regulation.

Is Vice President of The Adam Smith Society, Milan and member of the Milan Rotary Club.