

## Minister Lunardi visits Iveco

Turin, June 6th 2005

On 6th June Pietro Lunardi, Minister for Infrastructures and Transport for Italy, visited the Iveco offices in Turin.

The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Secretary for Transport Paolo Uggè, the chief of the Minister's secretarial staff, Giovanni Paolo Gaspari, the advisor for relations with Local Authorities, Giovanni Paolo Bernini, the head of the department for Land Transport, Amedeo Fumero and the managing director of Motorization, Sergio Dondolini.

The Minister and his staff were welcomed by Paolo Monferino, the CEO of Iveco, and by a large representation from the corporate management.

When presenting the company overall, its results and its strategy, Monferino emphasized the fact that Iveco is recognized by the market for its state of the art technology, thanks to which it is capable of offering its customers excellent products and services in advance of future standards in terms of both passive and active safety and restricting pollutant emissions.

Stefano Sterpone, Senior VP Sales & Marketing, showed the Minister *Several of Iveco's ideas and proposals for sustainable transport*, stressing, amongst other things, the outstanding results that could be achieved in terms of reducing pollutant emissions by replacing a considerable proportion of older vehicles with ones equipped with low emission engines, running on either diesel (Euro 4 - Euro 5) or on natural gas.

Sterpone recalled that there are still 750,000 Euro 0 commercial vehicles on the roads in Italy, equivalent to almost half of the entire number of vehicles in circulation. If their "physiological" replacement with low emission vehicles was accelerated the advantages for the environment would be considerable.

Javier Colon, Senior VP Global Product & Manufacturing, then illustrated Iveco's projects for the development of hybrid light commercial vehicles running on diesel and compressed natural gas (Ecodriver) and the fuel cell buses of the future. Dario Salvati, Sales & Marketing - Global Marketing Manager, gave an overview of the active and passive safety systems fitted on Iveco vehicles, illustrating, in particular, the opportunities for "co-operation" between vehicles and infrastructures, capable of providing the driver with information such as the recommended speed, pointing out high risk areas on the road, etc.

Giuseppe Amato, the Manager of Irisbus Italia, analyzed the fleet of registered buses on the roads in Italy, stressing that, compared with an average age in Europe of seven years, the average age in Italy was considerably higher, well over ten years, which obviously means that replacing these obsolete vehicles would bring considerable advantages in terms of the environment.

Going back to the theme of safety, Minister Lunardi expressed particular interest in the *Safe Tunnel* project, developed jointly by the Fiat Research Centre and Iveco, who made their own vehicles available for the experiments for this project. The Safe Tunnel project is designed to reduce the number of accidents in tunnels through the exchange of information between vehicles and infrastructures. Thanks to the continuous monitoring of the state of vehicles, the Safe Tunnel system is able to stop them from entering the tunnel if there are reported or imminent problems, anticipating the onset of these problems through appropriate diagnostic checks. In addition, the system can control the safe distance and speed for vehicles in the tunnel and, if necessary, send emergency messages.

At the end of the presentation, the Minister and his staff were taken to the test track where Lunardi wanted to test the Trakker and the Stralis ES in person, rounding things off with a spin in the prototype fuel cell bus. After leaving the Iveco offices the Minister went the Fiat Auto Safety Centre where he was able to see Fiat, Lancia and Alfa Romeo prototypes and test the new recently launched models (Fiat Croma) or the models currently being launched (Alfa 159). Lastly, the Minister went to the Fiat Research Centre where he met the CEO of the Fiat Group, Sergio Marchionne. Before the visit ended, Lunardi met the CEO of CRF Giancarlo Michellone who showed him the main research and development activities currently in progress.