



**SAFILO GROUP S.P.A.: VICE CHAIRMAN MASSIMILIANO TABACCHI  
APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Padova, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008, h. 6.30pm** – The Board of Directors of SAFILO GROUP S.p.A., which met today, has appointed the Executive Vice Chairman, Massimiliano Tabacchi, also to the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Claudio Gottardi, who resigns as CEO for personal reasons, remains a member of the Board of Directors of Safilo Group S.p.A. and Safilo S.p.A.. He will return to the United States and maintain his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Safilo Usa Inc. and its subsidiaries, which represent a strategic area for the Group.

Massimiliano Tabacchi, aged 38, has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Padova and has reached the position of Chief Executive Officer after seven years of activity in Safilo. He held the position of Chief Operating Officer from 2001 to 2006, coordinating the areas of Research and Development, Product Development, Planning, Operations, Information Technology and Human Resources.

In 2006 Massimiliano Tabacchi was appointed as Co-Chief Executive Officer, confirming the founding family's wish to ensure the company's entrepreneurial continuity, which was further strengthened by his appointment by the Board of Directors to the position of Executive Vice Chairman on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.

"During the last two years I have worked together with Claudio Gottardi to re-focus the Group on its core business, the design, production and distribution of outstanding eyewear." Stated Massimiliano Tabacchi. "A few months ago we presented an important business plan, both in terms of commercial development as well as from an industrial point of view. This project is continuing and will be strengthened by an increasingly competitive organisational structure which will preserve and seek the best managerial competencies, necessary to put into action and develop our strategy."

The Safilo Group is worldwide leader in the premium eyewear sector and maintains a leadership position in the prescription, sunglasses, fashion and sports eyewear sectors. Present on the international market through exclusive distributors and 30 subsidiaries in primary markets (U.S.A., Europe and Far East). The main proprietary branded collections distributed are: Safilo, Carrera, Smith, Oxydo, Blue Bay, and the licensed branded collections are: Alexander McQueen, A/X Armani Exchange, Balenciaga, Banana Republic, Bottega Veneta, BOSS by Hugo Boss, Boucheron, Diesel, 55DSL, Dior, Emporio Armani, Fossil, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, HUGO by Hugo Boss, J.Lo by Jennifer Lopez, Jimmy Choo, Juicy Couture, Kate Spade, Liz Claiborne, Marc Jacobs, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Max Mara, Max&Co., Nine West, Pierre Cardin, Saks Fifth Avenue, Stella McCartney, Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent.

This press release is also available in the website [www.safilo.com](http://www.safilo.com).

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