

Carlo De Benedetti

Honorary Chairman



Carlo De Benedetti in 1976 founded CIR (Compagnie Industriali Riunite), turning a small tanning business into one of the largest holding companies in the private sector in Italy, listed on the Milan Stock Exchange and employing around 13 thousand people. He was Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of CIR from 1976 to 1995, after which he was appointed as Chairman and held this position until April 30 2009. He is currently Honorary Chairman.

CIR is controlled by COFIDE-Gruppo De Benedetti, which was also founded in 1976 and is quoted on the Milan Stock Exchange. Carlo De Benedetti is Honorary Chairman and majority shareholder of Cofide. The most important businesses of the CIR-COFIDE Group are the following:

[ESPRESSO](#) - Leading Italian publisher operating in the media sector, in publishing (daily newspapers and magazines), radio, digital television, in the collection of advertising and in the internet sector. The parent company Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso SpA publishes the national daily newspaper la Repubblica and the weekly magazine L'Espresso. Through its subsidiaries it also publishes 16 regional daily newspapers, broadcasts three national radio stations, operates in the internet sector and collects advertising for the Group publications and also for some third-party publications. It is by far the most important publisher of daily newspapers in Italy with approximately 6 million readers per day. La Repubblica, together with Corriere della Sera, is the most widely read newspaper in Italy. The Espresso Group employs over 3 thousand people. Since April 2006 Carlo De Benedetti has been Chairman of Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso and of Finegil Editoriale.

[SOGEFI](#) - Founded in 1980 by Carlo De Benedetti, SOGEFI is one of the most important international groups operating worldwide in the automotive components business. Sogefi's core business focuses on two business segments: filters and flexible suspension components. On April 19 2005 Rodolfo De Benedetti took over as Chairman, while Carlo De Benedetti was appointed Honorary Chairman.

[SORGENIA](#) - Founded in 1999 from a joint-venture between CIR - who holds the majority – and the Austrian company Verbund, the Sorgenia Group is the leading privately owned operator in the Italian electricity and gas market. Sorgenia is one of the few private operators with its own generating plants, some already built and some under construction, designed to the highest technological standards, with the objective of reconciling the efficiency of its plants with respect for the environment. The company is also one of the main Italian players in the sector of renewable sources. Rodolfo De Benedetti, Chief Executive of CIR and COFIDE, is the Chairman of Sorgenia.

[KOS](#) was set up by CIR in 2003 with the aim of becoming an important private healthcare operator at national level, and operates in care homes for the elderly, rehabilitation units and hospital management. With over 59 facilities and more than 5,500 beds under management, KOS is the number one operator in Italy in care homes for the non self-sufficient elderly and number four in functional and psychiatric rehabilitation units.

Carlo De Benedetti was the promoter of Management&Capitali, the firm that invests in projects involving turnaround and strategic and industrial development, founded in 2005.

In July 2008 Carlo De Benedetti was invited to join the Supervisory Board of Compagnie Financière Edmond de Rothschild Banque (Paris). Carlo De Benedetti was one of the founder members of the European Round Table of Industrialists (Brussels) of which he was Deputy Chairman until 2004 when his mandate came to an end. He was a member of the European Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange from 1985 to June 2005 (end of his mandate).

He is currently a member of the International Council of the CSIS-Center for Strategic & International Studies (Washington); of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (Stockholm) and the Italian Council of INSEAD - The European Institute of Business Administration (Fontainebleau).

In December 1998 Carlo De Benedetti set up the Rodolfo De Benedetti Foundation which he chairs, in memory of his father. The Foundation studies problems connected with welfare reform and in just a few years has become a point of reference at European level for issues relating to the Welfare State.

Carlo De Benedetti's entrepreneurial career began in 1959 in the family business, Compagnia Italiana Tubi Metallici Flessibili, which was transformed into Gilardini of which he was Chairman and CEO from 1972 to 1976.

From 1978 to 1983 Carlo De Benedetti was Deputy Chairman and CEO of Olivetti, becoming Chairman and CEO from 1983 to 1996 and Honorary Chairman from 1996 to June 1999.

Carlo De Benedetti was awarded the title of Cavaliere del Lavoro in 1983 and received the French Légion d'Honneur in 1987. In 2006 he received a Silver Medal of Merit from the Republic of Austria. In 1986 he also received an honorary degree in law from the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., USA.

Carlo De Benedetti completed his university studies at the Turin Politecnico, graduating in 1958 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.