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**Esselunga Group – Preliminary Results:**

**Sales up 2.1% to € 7,914 million.**

**Halves Net Debt.**

Today the Board of Directors of Esselunga has examined in Limite di Pioltello a first set of Preliminary Results, summarized as follows:

- In 2018 the Esselunga Group made Sales totalling € 7,914 million, up by 2.1% vs € 7,754 million in 2017. This result has been achieved keeping the prices unchanged (zero inflation), thus confirming Esselunga at the top position for competitiveness, even in a negative market characterized by a decrease in consumer demand especially in the second half of 2018.
- The growth in E-commerce continues, exceeding € 236 million in sales, reporting +28% vs 2017 and representing approx. the 3% of the total Sales.
- As of 2018-end Net Debt was € 436 million (€ 848 million as of 2017-end) thanks to a strong cash flow generation.

Limite di Pioltello, 21st of January 2019

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**ESSELUNGA** is one of the leading Italian chains in the large-scale retailing sector, operating through a network of 158 superstores and supermarkets in Lombardy, Tuscany, Emilia Romagna, Piedmont, Veneto, Liguria and Lazio. Esselunga was founded in 1957 with the opening in Milan of the first supermarket in Italy. Today the company has over 23,000 employees and revenue more than € 7.9 billion.