

FS GROUP ATTENDS THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

- Thanks to FS trains, 27,000 tonnes of CO₂ were saved during 2008

Rome, 28 November 2009

The FS Group has always been committed to the environment, and adopted its own eco-sustainable strategy some time ago.

The Italian State Railways were among the first signatories to the “**Environment Pact**”, recently agreed with the Italian government and another 10 large national companies, who have all committed to **reducing their CO₂ emissions by a further 600 tonnes per year by the end of 2012**, and to using renewable energies in their plants and buildings. The measures will not only have clear benefits for the environment but will also reduce consumption and running costs.

The recent completion of the HS/HC links between Turin, Milan, Rome and Salerno have boosted the railways’ potential to compete against air travel, tipping the ecological scales even more heavily in favour of the State Railways.

All rail tickets will soon show details of energy savings, as well as journey information. All passengers will know how much CO₂ has been saved thanks to their decision to travel by train. The energy saved will then be converted into “**green points**” and will even be rewarded with free tickets, discounts and class upgrades.

In Italy, the transfer of market share from road to rail **during 2008 saved 27,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere**. On each day last year, 100,000 more Italian commuters chose to travel by local train compared to 2007.

This equates to an increase of 6%, or a saving of 65,000 daily car journeys, and all the resulting carbon dioxide. This calculation is based on the **passenger per kilometre measurement** widely used to quantify the environmental impact of various forms of transport. For each passenger per kilometre, the State Railways produce 44 grams of CO₂ compared to 118 for a car, 140 for an aircraft, and 158 for an HGV. The train is also undeniably superior when it comes to **energy savings**: a train consumes 91% less than an aircraft, 77% less than an HGV, and 68% less than a car. International statistics show that rail transport has only had a minimal impact on **global warming** and drastically reduces the amount of **particulates**. Scientific studies leave no room for doubt: each passenger on Italy’s trains produces 76% less **greenhouse gas** than an air traveller, and 66% less than a road user. Further proof of the FS Group’s commitment to the environment is the eco-friendly paints that Trenitalia has decided to use on its rolling stock. **The water-based paints** will be used on 230 new carriages, 11 new Freccia Rossa Etr500 locomotives and 13 new local trains.

Finally, on 5 December the FS Group will be onboard the *Climate Express*, a train that will travel 9000 kilometres between Kyoto and Copenhagen. The initiative was launched in Paris on 24 September, by the International Railways Union (UIC), the UN and the WWF, with the aim of raising public awareness of climate change issues.