



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Alitalia CEO meets trade unions and airline staff Headcount reductions 'painful but necessary' says CEO Ball. 500 new crew members in 2019. New long haul aircraft and routes**

Rome, 17 March 2017 – Alitalia's Chief Executive Officer Cramer Ball today presented to the airline's trade unions and staff the details of the 2017-2021 business plan approved by the company's board of directors on Wednesday 15 March.

The plan identifies a series of actions to boost revenues and reduce costs in order to achieve profitability by 2019.

Alitalia will reduce costs by €1 billion by 2019 and the majority of savings – two-thirds – will come from non-labour related costs while one third will be related to labour and productivity.

Achieving profitability by 2019 means Alitalia can implement positive growth that includes six new long-haul aircraft joining the fleet between 2019 and 2021. This is in addition to two aircraft joining in 2017 and 2018. The airline is also planning to launch ten new long-haul routes between 2017 and 2021 and to recruit up to 500 new crew members by 2019.

The business plan contains important measures related to labour costs, including a headcount reduction and a new Collective National Labour agreement to make Alitalia's cost base more competitive.

Headcount will reduce by up to 2,000 permanent and temporary roles in the business, which is a 50 per cent reduction in office staff and a 20 per cent reduction in non-flying operational roles. The airline currently employs 12,500 people around the world.

Cramer Ball said: *"Headcount reductions are a painful but necessary action that, alongside other cost reductions, will stabilise our financial situation and create long-term sustainability. These changes are essential if we are to compete effectively in the extremely tough European aviation market. Together with trade unions, and with the support of the Italian government, we will work respectfully and fairly at ways in which to minimise the impact of the business plan on our people."*

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#### **About Alitalia**

Alitalia - Società Aerea Italiana ([alitalia.com](http://alitalia.com)) is Italy's largest airline and commenced operations on January 1, 2015 after acquiring the operational activities of Alitalia - Compagnia Aerea Italiana, now named CAI. CAI has a 51% controlling stake in Alitalia and the remaining 49% of shares are owned by Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (Airline of the Year 2016 by the prestigious US-based aviation industry publication Air Transport World). As part of its 2016/2017 winter schedule, Alitalia flies to 80 destinations, including 26 Italian and 54 international destinations, with 3,600 weekly flights and 106 routes. Alitalia boasts one of the most modern and efficient fleets in the world. It is a member of the SkyTeam alliance and is part of the Transatlantic Joint Venture alongside Air France-KLM and Delta Air Lines. Alitalia also collaborates with the other Etihad Airways Partners - airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Etihad Airways, Etihad Regional operated by Darwin Airline, Jet Airways and NIKI – in order to offer customers more choice through improved networks and schedules and enhanced frequent flyer benefits.