PRESS RELEASE

ACEA AT COP31: WATER AT THE HEART OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHALLENGE

From water security to territorial resilience, Acea brings its industrial model to the international stage, built on infrastructure, innovation, expertise and investment. The Group serves more than 10 million people in Latin America and plays an active role in the steering committee of Italy's Mattei Plan to develop water infrastructure in Africa

Antalya, 17 November 2026 – Water security is set to play an increasingly central role in countries' development strategies. It is therefore essential to recognise the water transition as having the same strategic importance as the energy transition and to place it firmly at the heart of global agendas. Meeting this challenge requires industrial vision, investment, innovation and an increasing capacity to adapt to climate change. These are the issues on which Acea, Italy's leading water operator and the second largest in Europe, serving 11 million people in Italy and 10 million internationally, has brought its expertise and contribution to COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Group is taking part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference, reaffirming its commitment to the international debate on climate adaptation strategies and the role of infrastructure and essential services in supporting territorial development. On this occasion, Acea has showcased its industrial model, which combines sustainable resource management, infrastructure development, technological innovation and specialist expertise.

At a time when the effects of climate change are placing increasing pressure on infrastructure and natural resources, Acea has reiterated that water security is not merely an environmental priority, but also a fundamental prerequisite for economic competitiveness, quality of life and community resilience. Investment in infrastructure generates long-term economic and social value by improving service efficiency and strengthening territories' ability to address future challenges.

Against this backdrop, **Pierfrancesco Latini, Acea's Chief Risk Management, Sustainability & International Officer**, took part in the panel discussion *"Delivering Climate Impact: The Role of the Italian Climate Fund in Advancing Investments and Partnerships"*, attended by **Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Italy's Minister of the Environment and Energy Security**. The discussion focused on how investment and strategic partnerships, both domestic and international, can contribute to tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development. **Caterina Dentoni Litta, Head of Sustainability** and a member of Acea's delegation in Antalya, also spoke at the panel *"Accelerating Global Climate Finance: Launching the CLEAR Fund Model"*, organised by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and attended by Minister Pichetto Fratin. The event provided a further opportunity to discuss the role of climate finance and the need to mobilise resources and expertise to accelerate the delivery of sustainable projects.

"The climate challenge calls for a fundamental shift in perspective. Reducing the environmental impact of our operations is no longer enough: we must build economic and infrastructure systems capable of withstanding and responding to the effects of climate change. Water, energy and resilient infrastructure are increasingly strategic drivers of territorial competitiveness and community well-being. COP31 can help strengthen the position of water security on the international climate agenda, because climate change is not simply an environmental issue: it directly affects competitiveness, the operational and financial resilience of businesses, and their capacity to deliver long-term growth - said **Pierfrancesco Latini, Acea's Chief Risk, Sustainability & International Officer** - This makes it essential to mobilise both public and private capital, foster international partnerships and support the development of local expertise. In this context, Acea is bringing its industrial experience, technological capabilities and innovation capacity to the table, making a tangible contribution to resource security and territorial development."

An integrated industrial model driving the transition. Sustainable water management requires modern infrastructure, long-term investment and an increasing ability to combine technological innovation with operational efficiency. These are the key pillars underpinning Acea's industrial model.

In Italy, the Group manages more than 80,000 kilometres of water supply and sewerage networks and approximately 1,400 wastewater treatment plants. Its ongoing efforts focus on digitalising and upgrading infrastructure, improving process efficiency and adopting circular economy models. Key priorities include reducing water losses, increasing the reuse of treated wastewater and optimising energy consumption, thereby strengthening network resilience to the effects of climate change.

Acea's contribution to the transition also extends to the energy and environmental sectors. In Rome, the Group operates the electricity distribution network, which spans approximately 32,000 kilometres and is the largest urban electricity distribution network in Europe. Investments of €2.3 billion are planned through to 2030 to expand and upgrade the network, enhancing its efficiency, security and flexibility, as well as its ability to meet future energy system requirements. In the environmental sector, the Group focuses on recovering value from waste through waste-to-energy and waste-to-material facilities. These operations support the development of industrial value chains focused on the recovery of materials and energy, while promoting the wider adoption of circular economy models.

International growth and development. The expertise gained in managing infrastructure and essential services is a key driver of Acea's international growth. The Group has steadily strengthened its presence in international markets, exporting its industrial know-how and experience in managing the integrated water cycle. Today, Acea provides water services to approximately 10 million people in **Latin America**, employing more than 1,400 people, with operations concentrated primarily in **Peru, Honduras and the Dominican Republic**. In Peru, the Group already manages water supply and sewerage services in northern Lima. It is also the majority shareholder in the Agua Azul consortium, which is responsible for water abstraction and treatment in the Peruvian capital. In addition, Acea has secured a $4.5 million contract to operate and maintain eight wastewater treatment plants in Lima. In the Dominican Republic, the Group manages technical and commercial operations for water services, while in Honduras it operates the water supply service in San Pedro Sula under a concession agreement. International growth is also extending beyond Latin America, through new partnerships and investment opportunities in strategic markets across the **Gulf region** and the **Balkans**.

Africa is a particular focus of the Group's international commitment. Here, Acea is contributing its technical and industrial expertise to support the development of essential water infrastructure. In this context, the Group is actively involved in the steering committee of **Italy's Mattei Plan**, promoting an approach based on long-term cooperation, knowledge transfer and the strengthening of local operational capabilities. Among its most recent initiatives is the award of the feasibility study for the SAEP Djoué II project in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. The aim is not only to contribute to the delivery of infrastructure projects, but also to develop the expertise needed to ensure that the resulting infrastructure can be operated efficiently and sustainably over the long term.

Innovation and technology. For Acea, artificial intelligence, robotics and IoT technologies are strategic enablers of smarter, more efficient infrastructure. The Group uses AI-powered monitoring systems to detect anomalies and faults at an early stage, optimise maintenance activities and improve service quality and continuity, while reducing energy consumption and emissions.Robotics also makes it possible to operate in complex or hazardous environments, enhancing worker safety while increasing operational efficiency.

ACEA is one of Italy's leading industrial groups, listed on the Stock Exchange since 1999, and specialized in the management and development of networks and services in the water, energy, and environmental sectors. With 117 years of history, the Group is Italy's largest water operator, the second largest in Europe, and has an international presence in Latin America. ACEA aims to strengthen its position as a major infrastructure operator focused on regulated businesses. ACEA's people work every day by applying sustainability criteria with a forward-looking and strategic approach. The Group creates value for people and communities through its commitment to the environment, resources, and local territories.

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