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**Comunicato stampa**

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**Marcolin Group announces appointment of Antonio Bortuzzo as CEO of Marcolin USA after Paul Diaz resignation**

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The Marcolin Group has appointed Antonio Bortuzzo, the Company's Managing Director, to serve as Chief Executive Officer and to take a more active role in the US subsidiary after Paul Diaz resignation.

The appointment will take effect from September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Marcolin USA, under the new management, is confirming its strong focus on the American market for the Fashion and Luxury Brands (Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, D&G Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, Roberto Cavalli Eyewear, Montblanc Eyewear) and the American Brands in the portfolio, included the newly acquired Kenneth Cole license for the production and distribution of Kenneth Cole sunglasses for Department Stores.

Maurizio Marcolin, Chief Executive Officer of Licensing and Style of the Group and President of Marcolin USA, will oversee the US product needs for the Fashion, American and Sport ranges by leading the new style offices located in Italy in a Venetian villa near Treviso and the US design management team located in Miami.

Antonio Bortuzzo, Managing Director of Marcolin SpA as of November 2002, is a graduate in Business Economics from the "Bocconi" University of Milan, 43 years old, heads into the top management of Marcolin after a lengthy experience as Senior Partner at "Ernst & Young", where he was in charge of the Strategic Finance Department. Along with his noteworthy international financial experience, Antonio Bortuzzo adds substantial knowledge of the sales & marketing area, where he was able to measure himself against the major industries of the eyewear sector.

"I appreciate the confidence the Board of Directors has placed in me to lead Marcolin USA. My initial and immediate focus will be working with Marcolin's USA management team on those actions necessary to develop an even stronger strategic presence of our brands in the US market and to ensure the company's growth and profitability" said Antonio Bortuzzo.

The Marcolin Group is one of the leading companies in the production and marketing of eyewear and sunglasses and is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange. It has over 1,200 employees in 4 factories and 15 subsidiaries located worldwide. More than 6 million frames were produced in 2002 on the basis of around 400 designs.

The product portfolio includes: Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, D&G Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear, Roberto Cavalli Eyewear, Costume National Eyewear, Chloé Lunettes, Montblanc Eyewear, Replay Eyes, Miss Sixty Glasses, Fornarina Vision Up, Mossimo Vision, Essence Eyewear, Unionbay Eyewear, Bob Mackie, Cover Girl Eyewear, Kenneth Cole, NBA Eyewear, The North Face Eyequipment. The Group also has a wide range of its own brands which includes Céb  (ski goggles and sports eyewear).