

PRESS RELEASE

CORONAVIRUS, BERGAMO: NEW CT SCANNER FOR THE HOSPITAL SET UP BY THE ALPINE TROOPS

Thanks to a generous donation by the Unipol Group, Cesvi delivered a mobile CT scanner to the field hospital in Bergamo. The device will help monitor patients and improve the diagnosis of infections from the new coronavirus.

Bergamo, 16 September 2020

A CT scanner for the field hospital in Bergamo that will help monitor patients and improve the diagnosis of infections from the new coronavirus. The Unipol Group, which already allocated €20m to support Italy during the healthcare emergency, made a gesture to support the people of Bergamo **in association with the humanitarian organisation Cesvi**, with a donation of €1m which meant that it could purchase a **portable CT scanner for the field hospital set up by the Alpine troops in Bergamo**. This machine can pick up **signs of the disease in lungs at an early stage, assess the extension and progress of the coronavirus infection, and also confirm the complete recovery of patients who have been infected with Covid-19.**

The CT scanner was delivered this morning with Sebastiano Favero, President of the National Alpine troops Association in attendance along with the **Mayor of Bergamo, Giorgio Gori, the President of Cesvi, Gloria Zavatta, and the Head of Institutional Relations at the Unipol Group Stefano Genovese.**

Gloria Zavatta, President of Cesvi said “Right from the beginning of the emergency, Cesvi immediately took action to support the city where it was established 35 years ago. During the worst months, **we worked hard to support healthcare facilities** like the hospital set up by the Alpine troops in the Bergamo Fair area. **We give our sincere thanks to Unipol for promptly deciding to help us support Bergamo** and its people who were hit so terribly hard. We are aware of how important it still is to stay alert and work tirelessly to protect the health of the most vulnerable categories along with everyone else. **The arrival of this CT scanner clearly shows our ongoing commitment”.**

Stefano Genovese, Head of Institutional Relations at the Unipol Group said “In the most dramatic days of this exceptional emergency, the Unipol Group reacted in an equally exceptional manner - with respect to its day-to-day activities of ordinary insurance protection - by deciding to donate a significant amount to the communities most severely hit by the pandemic. We wanted the resources to arrive as quickly as possible and to be used to purchase equipment or facilities that could help make progress in protecting the communities, as we hope will be the case with the CT scanner for the field hospital in Bergamo. We are proud to have supported the Bergamo community, among the ones hit hardest by the Covid-19 emergency in Italy, and we wish the people and their Mayor Mr Gori all the best in the hope that they can resume their normal industrious activities as quickly as possible”.

Mayor Giorgio Gori stated “The field hospital in Bergamo enabled us to get through the most critical stage of the pandemic in our territory. It is an expression of what this city can achieve when the going gets tough. We can now add this invaluable portable CT scanner: I would like to thank UNIPOL, whose decision to contribute towards the purchase of this instrument seems to me to be the right one, CESVI, an organisation that returned to its roots in Bergamo after over 30 years of work all over the world, and the Alpine troops. The CT scanner will add to the health instruments available in the Alpine area and will represent a piece of Bergamo that can lend aid to any areas that most need it in the future”.

Sebastiano Favero, the National President of the Alpine troops said “the National Alpine troops Association is proud to acknowledge yet another demonstration of confidence in its work. **The donation by Unipol and Cesvi of a sophisticated device like this mobile CT scanner will permit our field hospital, the biggest structure of this type in Europe, to operate even more efficiently in emergencies, supporting our people.** In thanking everyone who considers our Alpine troops to be a solid, credible and reliable organisation, I assure you that we will endeavour to obtain the best use possible from this extraordinary new resource. It is no coincidence that this ceremony is being held in Bergamo, a city that suffered a devastating impact from the pandemic: however, from the pain, the qualities of these people emerged, doubly linked to the Alpine troops, written into the DNA of its valleys: it showed no hesitation in reacting with exceptional spirit and sense of duty. Therefore, **thanks are due to Cesvi**, which has been involved in humanitarian work all around the world for 35 years, **and Unipol**, for the sensitivity shown and its financially significant assistance: **we are certain that the Alpine troops deserve the confidence that you have always had in their tradition of working for the benefit of others”**.

Cesvi, a humanitarian organisation that has worked for 35 years in Italy and around the world, took action right from the beginning of the emergency to support Bergamo hospitals by providing security devices and urgent medical equipment and helping the vulnerable elderly people in Bergamo through home social assistance services. Cesvi has also supported micro and small enterprises in the Bergamo area since May with the **“Bergamo Renaissance” programme**, which aims to give concrete support to the town’s business activities to help them start up again and adapt to the new situation.

Cesvi – Cooperation and Development

Cesvi is an Italian independent lay humanitarian organisation, founded in Bergamo in 1985. With a total of 66 foreign offices, it operates in 22 countries transforming humanitarian actions into opportunities to construct long-term projects that promote self-development in communities, encouraging them to take the lead. It works to ensure food security and agricultural development, promoting sustainable development and environmental protection, and working to offset the effects of climate change. It protects the life and health of the most vulnerable children in the world through the *Case del Sorriso*. In Italy, it is involved in a programme to prevent and combat violence against children and to protect and help unaccompanied foreign minors integrate. It carries out awareness-raising campaigns to encourage people in Italy and in Europe, especially young people, to become responsible citizens and take the lead in cultural and social change. In 2019, Cesvi helped over 1 million people in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, South America and Europe, working with 122 local NGOs on 121 projects and investing 88% of its resources directly in the field. It was the first non-profit organisation to be awarded the “Oscar di Bilancio” (best financial reporting) for transparency by FERPI (Italian Public Relations Federation) in 2000, receiving the award again in 2011 and 2017. It forms part of the Alliance2015 European network, along with 7 other European NGOs, to increase effectiveness in fighting world poverty and help achieve Sustainable Development Goals. For more info, see: www.cesvi.org

Unipol Gruppo S.p.A.

Unipol is one of the biggest insurance groups in Europe and the leading company in Italy in the non-life insurance sector, (especially in the MV and health businesses), with total premiums of approximately €14.0bn, of which €8.2bn in non-Life and €5.8bn in life (2019 figures). Unipol adopts an integrated offer strategy and covers the entire range of insurance and financial products, operating primarily through the subsidiary UnipolSai Assicurazioni S.p.A. The Group is also active in direct MV insurance (Linear Assicurazioni), transport and aviation insurance (Siat), health insurance (UniSalute), supplementary pensions and also covers the bancassurance channel (Arca Vita, Arca Assicurazioni and Incontra). It also manages significant diversified assets in the debt collection (UnipolReC), real estate, hotel (Gruppo UNA), medical-healthcare and agricultural (Tenute del Cerro) sectors. Unipol Gruppo S.p.A. is listed on the Italian Stock Exchange.



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