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Press release

Cofiroute raises tolls from 1 February 2005 to finance the extension and improvement of its network

**+ 1.42% for light vehicles
Much lower than inflation**

**Significant construction programme under way:
four months ahead of schedule on the Le Mans–Tours section
of the A28 motorway**

In application of the 2004–2008 master plan signed by the French government and Cofiroute, the current tolls on Cofiroute's motorway network will increase on 1 February 2005. **The average increase will be 1.42% for light vehicles (categories 1 and 2).** According to INSEE figures, this increase represents 85% of the October 2004 consumer price index (excluding tobacco products).

The master plan signed by both parties defines the framework for toll increases in great detail, and allows Cofiroute to communicate them to customers a few days before they come into force.

Toll receipts: Cofiroute's sole source of revenue

As a public service concession company, Cofiroute is responsible for financing, building, maintaining and operating its network. The toll receipts finance the company's ambitious network construction and modernisation programme aimed at enhancing the comfort and safety of its 100 million customers a year.

Cofiroute's intercity network currently comprises 928 km of motorways; it will be increased to 1,091 km by August 2008. The cost of new sections amounts to approximately €1.4 billion.

Cofiroute is also boring the A86 motorway tunnel to the west of Paris.

As a result of all this construction work, Cofiroute is one of France's leading private contractors.

Rapid progress on sections under construction

By signing the 2004–2008 master plan on 4 May 2004, Cofiroute made a formal commitment to open motorway sections on the specified dates. The company will not only meet those dates, but will endeavour to open sections earlier than planned whenever possible. On the A28 section between Ecommoy and Tours, for example, which is the next section to be opened, Cofiroute aims to complete construction work four months ahead of schedule despite the long delay caused by the presence of the hermit beetle, a protected species.

Improvements to existing motorways

During the 2005–2008 period, approximately €400 million will be invested in improving the network of motorways already in service. Projects include:

- widening motorways to three traffic lanes;
- equipping the network with emergency refuges compliant with standards for people with restricted mobility;
- providing 934 additional parking spaces for heavy goods vehicles;
- installing new variable message signs.

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