



## Employee Stock Issue

Charenton-le-Pont, France (May 11, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.) – At the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting of May 11, 2010, Essilor International's Board of Directors was given a 26-month authorization to issue shares to members of Essilor employee stock ownership plans (14<sup>th</sup> resolution). The maximum number of common shares authorized for issuance was set at 4,310,199, representing no more than 2% of capital stock.

At its meeting on May 11, 2010, the Board of Directors decided to use this authorization to issue up to 400,000 common shares for subscription by members of the Essilor, BBGR, Novisia, BNL Eurolens and Delamare Sovra employee stock ownership plans.

The new shares will carry rights as from January 1, 2010. They will be offered at a price of €36.88 per share, corresponding to the average of the opening prices quoted over the last twenty trading days preceding the Board's May 11, 2010 decision to issue the shares, less a 20% discount.

Employees may purchase the shares through two funds. These funds have been given a specific value since January 5, 2010, the start date of the subscription period. The closing date of the subscription period is June 10, 2010. The actual number of shares issued will be announced on June 28, 2010 and the Company will then apply for the new shares (par value: €0.18) to be listed on Eurolist by Euronext™.

The Company's capital stock amounts to €38,791,794.96, represented by 215,509,972 shares.

-----

***The world leader in ophthalmic optical products, Essilor International researches, develops, manufactures and markets around the world a wide range of lenses to improve and protect eyesight. Its flagship brands are Varilux®, Crizal®, Essilor®, Definity® and Xperio™.***

*Based in France, the company reported consolidated revenue of more than €3.2 billion in 2009, with 34,700 employees and operations in 100 countries.*

*For more information, please visit [www.essilor.com](http://www.essilor.com).*

*The Essilor share trades on the NYSE Euronext Paris market and is included in the CAC 40 index.*

*Codes and symbols: (ISIN: FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP).*

-----

**Investor Relations and Financial Communications**

**Phone: +33 (0)1 49 77 42 16**