



NEWS RELEASE

Employee Stock Issue

Charenton-le-Pont, France (November 27, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.) – At the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting of May 14, 2008, Essilor International's Board of Directors was given a 26-month authorization to issue shares to members of Essilor employee stock ownership plans (16th resolution). The maximum number of common shares authorized for issuance was set at 3,807,485, representing no more than 2% of capital stock.

At its meeting on November 27, 2008, 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, Delamare and Sevra employee stock ownership plans.

The new shares will carry rights as from January 1, 2008. They will be offered at a price of €26.54 per share, corresponding to the average of the opening prices quoted over the last twenty trading days preceding the Board's November 27, 2008 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 July 4, 2008, the start date of the subscription period. The closing date of the subscription period is December 10, 2008. The actual number of shares issued will be announced on December 19, 2008 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 €38,168,222.04, represented by 212,246,782 shares.

Essilor International is the world leader in ophthalmic optical products, offering a wide range of lenses under the flagship Varilux®, Crizal®, Airwear® and Essilor® brands to correct myopia, hyperopia, presbyopia and astigmatism. Essilor operates worldwide through 15 production sites, 270 lens finishing laboratories and local distribution networks.

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

Codes and symbols: ISIN: FR 0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EF:FP.

Investor Relations and Financial Communications

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

www.essilor.com