



## **FRANCESCO MERLONI**

After obtaining his degree in Industrial Engineering, in 1953 he began working for his father's company, initiating within the production of LPG cylinders, the development of the production activities, and then, promoting and contributing to the company's productive and commercial expansion and diversification together with his brothers.

During the 70s, he was responsible for the development of the heating and air-conditioning sectors for domestic environments, which subsequently became an independent Company within the Merloni Group Industries.

Besides being Chairman of Ariston Thermo Group, he is also a shareholder of the Indesit Company SpA and of RCS MediaGroup Spa.

A Member of the Parliament since 1972, five times re-elected to the Lower House and the Senate, he took part in the works of the Commission for the Productive Activities (Commissione per le Attività Produttive) and of the Bicameral Commission for the Industrial Reorganization and the State Industry (Commissione Bicamerale per le Attività Produttive e le Partecipazioni Statali).

In June 1992, he was appointed Minister of Public Works under the Amato government and in 1993 he was re-elected under the government of Ciampi. As Minister, he instituted the "Merloni law", a radical reform for the public contracts allocation system, and he also transformed ANAS (National roads organisation) into a public and economic organisation.

He is President of the "Aristide Merloni" Foundation, an institute for economic and social development, as well as National President of the UCID (Christian Union of Entrepreneurs and Managers), President of AREL (Research and Legislation Agency) which was founded by Beniamino Andreatta and President of the central group of Cavalieri del Lavoro.