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Safilo says no slowdown in 2007, minimal dlr impact

MILAN, Nov 27 (Reuters) - Italian eyewear maker Safilo is seeing no slowdown in sales this year, even in the United States, and is optimistic for 2008, Chairman and majority shareholder Vittorio Tabacchi said on Tuesday.

Safilo cut its full-year core profit forecast to 180 million euros (\$267.2 million) from 190 million euros in July, blaming the euro's strength against currencies in key markets like the United States as well as the expiry of a licence to sell eyewear under the Polo Ralph Lauren brand.

"We are optimistic about 2008; there is no slowdown," Tabacchi said on the sidelines of a fashion and luxury goods event in Milan, confirming the 2007 core profit forecast, which is based on a euro-U.S. dollar exchange rate of \$1.35.

Tabacchi said he was not worried by dollar weakness against the euro.

"There is a minimal impact on the final results. There is an impact on turnover, but it is compensated by the reduction of acquisition costs and cover on exchange rates," he said. He said the recent long week-end in the U.S. "was very positive for our shops and our clients. We can see there is still a will to buy on the U.S. market."

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