

Paris, May 21st 2008



## **VILMORIN PROVIDES MORE DETAILS OF THE TERMS OF ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HOME GARDEN MARKET**

Last October Vilmorin presented its project to sell its home garden activities (seeds and garden products).

This group of companies, comprising Oxadis (France), Flora Frey and Sperling (Germany), CNOS Vilmorin (Poland) and Suttons (United Kingdom) made total sales of 142 million euros in fiscal 2006-2007.

Following the different calls for bids issued for financial investors and industrialists from the gardening and DIY markets, Vilmorin has decided to sell the activity in three separate operational business units.

### **Agreement on the sale of Oxadis and CNOS Vilmorin almost completed**

Vilmorin and the group Plan SAS<sup>(1)</sup> have just reached an agreement concerning the takeover of the companies Oxadis and CNOS Vilmorin, on the basis of a global value of 60 million euros.

Implementation of this agreement would involve the prior sale to Oxadis of the goodwill and brands specifically dedicated to the home garden market (Vita, France Graines ...), which Oxadis currently exploits through a lease management agreement.

The brands used as a priority for the professional activities (particularly Vilmorin and Clause) will naturally remain the property of the Vilmorin group and will be licensed out to the group Plan SAS for long-term exploitation, limited to the home garden activities.

The objective is to finalize the operation before June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, after prior consultation with the organizations representing the personnel and approval from the different boards of directors concerned.

*(1) Based in France, Plan SAS is a private horticulture and seeds group, and one of the main players on the European market. With a headcount of 350, the company made sales of 47 million euros in 2007.*

### **Well-advanced negotiations for the sale of Flora Frey and Sperling**

Vilmorin is currently negotiating a firm take-over bid for the companies Flora Frey and Sperling.

This bid, which still needs to be submitted for prior consultation with the organizations representing the personnel, should facilitate the continuing industrial and commercial reorganization of the two companies, launched in the spring of 2005.

The close of this agreement, subject to these prior consultations with organizations representing the personnel and approval from the boards of directors concerned, may well be achieved by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## Takeover bids for Suttons being analyzed

Several takeover bids have been made for the company Suttons in the United Kingdom, both from financial and industrial operators.

The process to sell the company is continuing with the objective of reaching a close by December 31st 2008.

*As Adrian HUIGE, CEO delegate for Vilmorin, emphasized:*

*"In accordance with the objectives presented in the fall of 2007, Vilmorin is implementing its withdrawal from its home garden activities, with the intention of concentrating on the professional market for seeds and developing its vegetable and field seeds activities in a balanced fashion.*

*In a highly evolving competitive environment, Vilmorin is thus well-prepared to significantly intensify its two strategic orientations, research and international development, in order to consolidate its position as a top flight world player".*

## Coming disclosures for fiscal 2007-2008

**Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the end of the day:** disclosure of the sales for the year.

**Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the end of the day:** disclosure of the results for the year.

*Vilmorin is the fourth largest seed company in the world, and expert in the creation of novel vegetable and field crop plants. Based on a sustainable, responsible vision of its development, its strategy is a successful combination of research and international growth.*

*Listed on Euronext Paris (compartment A), Vilmorin's quotation is included in the Next 150, CAC Mid 100, SBF 250 indices and is eligible for SRD. ISIN code: FR0000052516 (RIN).*

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