EMBARGO: Brussels, July 30, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.
REGULATED INFORMATION

Good resilience in second quarter operating result (EUR 164 million), up from the first quarter (EUR 142 million)

- ✓ **First half operating result (EUR 306 million)** down from 2008 (EUR 548 million) due to the economic downturn
- ✓ **Sales (EUR 4,051 million)** down by 14% compared to the first half of 2008. Evolution by Sector is contrasted.
- ✓ **Operating result**:
  - ➢ **Pharmaceuticals (EUR 206 million)**: down by 16% but distinctly higher than result from the first half of 2008 aside from miscellaneous income (EUR 71 million in the first half of 2008)
  - ➢ **Chemicals (EUR 122 million)**: Despite weak demand and pressure on some prices, decrease limited (-10%) compared to the first half of 2008; second quarter of 2009 up compared to last year
  - ➢ **Plastics (EUR 8 million)**: sharply down compared to the first half of 2008 in the context of the global economic crisis that especially affected the major markets in this Sector (construction, automotive and electronics)
- ✓ **Net income of Group** (**EUR 181 million)**, down from the net result of EUR 351 million in the first half of 2008
- ✓ **Solid financial structure:**
  - ➢ **Net debt to equity ratio: 39.5%**
  - ➢ **No significant maturity dates for debt reimbursement before 2014**

Group **sales** (EUR 4,051 million) in the first half of 2009 were down by 14% compared to last year. The evolution by Sector is contrasted: Pharmaceuticals: +4%, Chemicals: –8%, Plastics: –31%. The level of activities in the first half remained weak in Chemicals and Plastics since last year, in the context of the global economic crisis. In the second quarter, sales were down by 12% and amounted to EUR 2,067 million.

Group operating result (**REBIT**[1]; EUR 306 million) was down by 44% compared to the first half of 2008. In the second quarter, it amounted to EUR 164 million (-34% compared to last year). The operating result from our industrial activities continued to be affected by the very difficult economic environment, especially in Plastics (EUR 8 million in the first half of 2009). The Chemicals Sector resisted despite low demand and posted a result of EUR 122 million in the first half, down by 10%. The operating result for the Pharmaceuticals Sector from the first half of 2008 included miscellaneous income totaling EUR 71 million linked to the sale of non-strategic products. It explains that the operating result from the first half of 2009 (EUR 206 million) diminished by 16%; aside from this item, the operating result would be up by 18%.
The Group's **operating margin** (REBIT on sales) was 7.6% in the first half of 2009 compared to 11.6% in the first half of 2008. The decrease was limited through strict cost controls and continued optimizations of structure (adapting production and reducing headcount). With constant perimeter and EUR/USD exchange rate, there were decreases from the first half of 2008 in fixed production costs and in commercial and administrative costs by a total amount of around EUR 75 million. Headcount continued to decrease in 2009 (at constant perimeter: about 1000 people in the first half).

The **net income of the Group** (EUR 181 million) decreased by 48% compared to the first half of 2008, taking into account the drop in operating result.

REBITDA[2] was EUR 553 million, down by 28% compared to the first half of 2008. In the context of the current crisis, priority was given to generation of cash and maintenance of a sound financial situation. Aside from cost-reduction measures, this priority generated a significant decrease in working capital requirements (EUR 438 million) and capital expenditures (by 25%, in line with the reduction goal set in the budget) compared to the end of June 2008. The **net debt to equity ratio** reached 39.5% at the end of June 2009 compared to 36.4% at the end of June 2008, after strategic investments made in the second half of 2008 in the amount of approximately EUR 300 million. It should be noted that the first significant maturity for debt reimbursement will not occur until 2014.

Pharmaceuticals Sector sales (EUR 1,292 million) were up by 4% compared to the first half of 2008 (+1% at constant exchange rates). In the second quarter, they increased by 11% (+7% at constant exchange rates). They benefited from the sustained growth of certain drugs (in particular, Androgel® and Creon®) and overall positive exchange rate effects (EUR 37 million). On the other hand, they were negatively impacted by significant pressure from generic competition (impact of EUR –38 million on Marinol®, which became generic in June 2008). Earnings for the fenofibrate franchise in the United States in early 2009 were lower following the significant revenues in December 2008 (EUR 39 million) related to the launch of Trilipix™ after its approval by the FDA. Sales from emerging markets continued to improve, despite the negative effects of exchange rates. The operating result from the first half of 2008 (EUR 246 million) included miscellaneous income totaling EUR 71 million (of which EUR 44 million were in the second quarter), linked to the sale of non-strategic products. For this reason, the operating result from the first half of 2009 (EUR 206 million) declined by 16% compared to last year. Aside from these items, it would be distinctly higher than the first half of last year (+18%). Research and Development expenditures amounted to EUR 221 million, on the same order as those of the first half of 2008 (EUR 227 million).

1 REBIT: measure of operating performance (this is not an IFRS concept as such)
2 REBITDA: REBIT, before recurring depreciation.

One of the strategic axes of the Solvay Group consists of an evaluation of its activities at regular intervals in order to determine their capacity to contribute to realization of its objectives. In this context, the Solvay Group is currently conducting an **analysis of the different possible strategic options for its Pharmaceutical activities**. At this stage, this does not involve any other decision in this respect.

Sales in the **Chemicals Sector** for the first half of 2009 (EUR 1,406 million) were down by 8% due to a general drop in demand. In the second quarter, the sales volume was, however, slightly higher than the first quarter except in soda ash. Throughout the second quarter, there has been a significant drop in caustic soda prices, as well as increasing prices pressures on the other chemicals products, including soda ash. The operating result for the first half of 2009 (EUR 122 million) decreased by 10% compared to last year (EUR 136 million); in the second quarter (EUR 66 million), it was up by 26% compared to the second quarter of 2008 and by 18% compared to the first quarter of 2009 (EUR 56 million). Strict control on fixed costs at all levels had a positive impact on results. More recently, during the second quarter, added to this was a drop in energy costs, which began to have an impact. It should be noted that on average, the energy costs for the first half of 2009 were higher compared to the first half of 2008.

Plastics Sector sales (EUR 1,353 million) declined by 31% compared to the first half of 2008, in a very degraded global economic context. The impact of the crisis was very significant for the Sector's primary markets, which are automotive and construction, as well as electronics and electricity. Sales for PVC were also affected by significantly lower sales prices compared to last year (even though they have been improving since May, considering the rise in ethylene costs). The operating result from the first half (EUR 8 million, including EUR 4 million in the second quarter) was sharply down compared to the high level of last year (EUR 187 million). The measures taken to reinforce competitiveness of Plastics as well as a policy of sector and geographic diversification over the last few years (especially in Asia and Mercosur) mitigated the impact of the crisis on the result. Priority given to cash generation encouraged maintaining some production at reduced operating rates in order to ensure a strict control of inventories.

As announced, the Pharmaceuticals Sector will achieve in 2009 a higher operating result than last year.
The Chemicals and Plastics Sector show good resilience thanks to their competitive positions and to the measures taken, but the market conditions remain difficult.
Full year operating result of the Group will be lower than last year.

SOLVAY Group – Summary Financial Information

Million EUR (except for per-share figures in EUR)	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2009/ 1st half 2008	2nd quarter 2008	2nd quarter 2009	2nd quarter 2009/ 2nd quarter 2008
Sales	**4,731**	**4,051**	**-14%**	**2,357**	**2,067**	**-12%**
REBIT	**548**	**306**	**-44%**	**249**	**164**	**-34%**
REBIT/Sales	*11.6%*	*7.6%*		*10.5%*	*7.9%*	
Non-recurring items	-34	-34		-43	-31	
EBIT[3]	**514**	**272**	**-47%**	**206**	**133**	**-35%**
Charges on net indebtedness	-51	-71	38%	-22	-44	103%
Income from investments	10	-3		10	-3	
Earnings before taxes	**473**	**198**	**-58%**	**194**	**86**	**-56%**
Income taxes	-121	-16	-86%	-62	-2	-96%
Net income of the Group	**351**	**181**	**-48%**	**131**	**83**	**-36%**
Net income (Solvay share)	335	168	-50%	127	77	-39%
Total depreciation	246	262	6%	134	132	-1%
REBITDA	773	553	-28%	362	291	-20%
Cash flow	597	443	-26%	265	215	-19%
(per share, in EUR) **Earnings per share**[4]	4.02	2.05	-49%	1.53	0.94	-39%
Net debt to equity ratio	36.4%	39.5%				

Notes on Solvay Group summary financial information

As was the case last year, **non-recurring items** amounted to EUR -34 million in the first half. They included, among other things, assets write-downs of EUR 10 million in the Organics cluster and EUR 12 million in the Pharmaceuticals Sector as well as income of EUR 9 million related to the sale of the remaining Sofina shares.

Charges on net indebtedness amounted to EUR -71 million at the end of June 2009. They included currency hedging charges related to our commercial pharmaceuticals activities in emerging countries. Financial debt was

3 EBIT: results before financial charges and taxes.
4 Calculated on the basis of the weighted average of the number of shares in the period, after deduction of own shares purchased to cover the stock option programs, or a total of 82,492,238 shares for six months 2008 and 82,134,172 shares for six months 2009

covered at 100% at an average fixed rate of 5.1% with a duration of 6.6 years; the first significant maturity of the debt will not occur until 2014. In May 2009, the Group issued a 6-year bond in the amount of EUR 500 million at an annual rate of 5%. This issue permitted consolidation of its long-term financing structure, among other things by refinancing the short term commercial paper.

Income taxes amounted to EUR –16 million. The effective tax rate at the end of June 2009 was 8%, due among others to tax credits for research.

The **net income of the Group** (EUR 181 million) declined by 48% compared to the first half of 2008. Interest from third parties amounted to EUR 13 million. The **net result per share** amounted to 2.05 EUR (compared to 4.02 EUR in the first half of 2008).

REBITDA amounted to EUR 553 million (down by 28% compared to the same period of last year). **Depreciation** (EUR 262 million) was slightly higher than in the first half of 2008 (EUR 246 million).

Equity amounted to EUR 4,806 million at the end of June 2009, up by EUR 61 million compared to the end of 2008 (EUR 4,745 million).

The Group set as a major priority the maintenance of a solid financial situation, in particular in the current economic context. At the end of June 2009 the **net debt to equity ratio** was 39.5% (compared to 36.4% at the end of June 2008). **Net debt** amounted to EUR 1,899 million compared to EUR 1,597 million at the end of 2008. Working capital (EUR 1,265 million) declined by EUR 438 million compared to the end of June 2008. This decline involved in particular the industrial working capital (down by EUR 333 million); this reflects a strong focus of the management of the Group in this area.

RESULTS BY SEGMENT[5]

Million EUR	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2009 / 1st half 2008	2nd quarter 2008	2nd quarter 2009	2nd quarter 2009 / 2nd quarter 2008
GROUP SALES[6]	**4,731**	**4,051**	**-14%**	**2,357**	**2,067**	**-12%**
Pharmaceuticals	1,249	1,292	4%	596	661	11%
Chemicals	1,528	1,406	-8%	765	683	-11%
Plastics	1,954	1,353	-31%	995	724	-27%
Corporate and Business Support	0	0		0	0	
REBIT GROUP	**548**	**306**	**-44%**	**249**	**164**	**-34%**
Pharmaceuticals	246	206	-16%	111	115	4%
Chemicals	136	122	-10%	53	66	26%
Plastics	187	8	-96%	97	4	-95%
Corporate and Business Support	-21	-30	45%	-11	-22	89%
REBITDA GROUP	**773**	**553**	**-28%**	**362**	**291**	**-20%**
Pharmaceuticals	297	261	-12%	137	142	4%
Chemicals	213	205	-4%	91	108	19%
Plastics	278	112	-60%	142	60	-58%
Corporate and Business Support	-16	-25	62%	-9	-19	117%

5 Results by sector include results from the three sectors of the Group, as well as Corporate and business support.
6 These are sales after elimination of inter-sector sales.

IFRS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

Million EUR *(except for per-share figures in EUR)*	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	2nd quarter 2008	2nd quarter 2009
Sales	**4,731**	**4,051**	**2,357**	**2,067**
Cost of goods sold	-3,185	-2,654	-1,610	-1,359
Gross Margin	**1,546**	**1,398**	**747**	**708**
Commercial and administrative costs	-749	-754	-370	-384
Research and development costs	-294	-290	-142	-142
Other operating gains and losses	47	-36	21	-16
Other financial gains and losses	-2	-13	-8	-2
REBIT	**548**	**306**	**249**	**164**
Non-recurring items	-34	-34	-43	-31
EBIT	**514**	**272**	**206**	**133**
Charges on borrowings	-62	-66	-27	-32
Interest on lendings and short term deposits	11	5	5	2
Other gains and losses on net indebtedness	0	-10	0	-15
Income from investments	10	-3	10	-3
Earnings before taxes	**473**	**198**	**194**	**86**
Income taxes	-121	-16	-62	-2
Net income of Group	**351**	**181**	**131**	**83**
Minority interests	-16	-13	-4	-7
Net income (Solvay share)	**335**	**168**	**127**	**77**
Earnings per share (in EUR)	4.02	2.05	1.53	0.94
Diluted income per share(*) (in EUR)	4.01	2.05	1.52	0.94

(*) Calculated on the number of shares diluted by awarded stock options

TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME OF THE GROUP

Million EUR	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	2nd quarter 2008	2nd quarter 2009
Net income of the Group	**351**	**181**	**131**	**83**
Gains and losses on remeasuring available-for-sale financial assets	-125	17	-88	17
Effective portion of gains and losses on hedging instruments in a cash flow hedge	3	3	3	3
Currency translation differences	-117	19	31	-48
Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income	0	3	0	-2
Other comprehensive income, net of related tax effects	**-239**	**41**	**-53**	**-30**
Total comprehensive income of the Group	**112**	**223**	**78**	**53**

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

Million EUR	As of December 31, 2008	As of June 30, 2009
Non-current assets	**7,752**	**7,858**
Intangible assets	726	716
Goodwill	1,667	1,669
Tangible assets	4,218	4,265
Available-for-sale investments	30	71
Other investments	187	184
Deferred tax assets	649	679
Loans and other non-current assets	273	275
Current assets	**4,513**	**4,205**
Inventories	1,255	1,147
Trade receivables	1,666	1,517
Income tax receivables	92	47
Other receivables	555	482
Cash and cash equivalents	883	961
Assets held for sale	61	51
TOTAL ASSETS	**12,264**	**12,063**
Total equity	**4,745**	**4,806**
Share capital	1,271	1,271
Reserves	3,179	3,242
Minority interests	296	293
Non-current liabilities	**4,185**	**5,048**
Long-term provisions: employee benefits	1,106	1,108
Other long-term provisions	922	931
Deferred tax liabilities	258	259
Long-term financial debt	1,852	2,693
Other non-current liabilities	46	58
Current liabilities	**3,334**	**2,209**
Short-term provisions: employee benefits	43	29
Other short-term provisions	80	77
Short-term financial debt	627	167
Trade liabilities	1,337	1,079
Income tax payable	49	46
Other current liabilities	1,183	800
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale	14	11
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**12,264**	**12,063**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent								
Million EUR	Share capital	Issue premiums	Retained earnings	Treasury shares	Currency translation differences	Fair value differences	Total	Minority interests	Total equity
Book value at the end of the period (12/31/2008)	**1,271**	**18**	**3,994**	**-226**	**-621**	**14**	**4,449**	**296**	**4,745**
Net profit for the period			168				168	13	181
Income and expenses directly allocated to equity					12	22	35	6	41
Total comprehensive income			**168**		**12**	**22**	**203**	**19**	**222**
Cost of stock options			5				5		5
Dividends			-142				-142	-4	-146
Acquisition /sale of own shares				1			1		1
Other variations			-3				-3	-18	-21
Book value at the end of the period (06/30/2009)	**1,271**	**18**	**4,021**	**-225**	**-608**	**36**	**4,513**	**293**	**4,806**

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Million EUR	1st half 2008	1st half 2009
EBIT	514	272
Depreciation, amortization and impairments	246	262
Changes in working capital	-328	-217
Changes in provisions	-53	-36
Income tax paid	-111	1
Others	-29	-13
Cash flow from operating activities	**240**	**269**
Acquisition/sale of investments and shares	58	-29
Acquisition/sale of assets	-332	-236
Income from investments	10	0
Changes in loans	36	26
Effect of changes in method of consolidation	3	4
Cash flow from investing activities	**-226**	**-234**
Variation of capital (increase/decrease)	-11	-18
Acquisition/sale of own shares	2	1
Changes in borrowings	351	368
Charges on net indebtedness	-62	-66
Interest on loans and short-term investments	11	5
Other gains and losses on net indebtedness	0	-10
Dividends	-238	-245
Cash flow from financing activities	**52**	**35**
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**67**	**70**
Currency translation differences	-13	7
Opening cash balance	575	883
Closing cash balance	**629**	961

RESULTS BY SEGMENT

Million EUR	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2009/ 1st half 2008	2nd quarter 2008	2nd quarter 2009	2nd quarter 2009/ 2nd quarter 2008
Group sales[7]	**5,050**	**4,389**	**-13%**	**2,516**	**2,237**	**-11%**
Pharmaceuticals	1,249	1,292	4%	596	661	11%
Chemicals	1,649	1,480	-10%	824	720	-13%
Plastics	2,153	1,616	-25%	1,096	857	-22%
Corporate and Business Support	0	0		0	0	
EBIT GROUP	**514**	**272**	**-47%**	**206**	**133**	**-35%**
Pharmaceuticals	209	187	-10%	86	101	17%
Chemicals	78	93	20%	38	53	41%
Plastics	211	4	-98%	94	1	-99%
Corporate and Business support	17	-12		-12	-22	

7 These are sales before elimination of inter-company sales.

PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR

Strategic developments

- ***Analysis by the Group of the different possible strategic options for its Pharmaceuticals Sector***
- ***Continuation of INSPIRE project and launch of Transformation 2015 project***
- ***Authorization of Creon® by the FDA***

- One of the strategic axes of the Solvay Group consists of an **evaluation of its activities at regular intervals** in order to determine their capacity to contribute to realization of its objectives. In this context, the Solvay Group is currently conducting an analysis of the different possible strategic options for its Pharmaceutical activities. At this stage, this does not involve any other decision in this respect.

- Known under the name **INSPIRE**, Solvay Pharmaceuticals' integration and transformation project has as its primary goal the improvement of the profitability of the Pharmaceuticals Sector by 2010 to reach an annual REBIT of EUR 640 million (a REBIT/sales margin $\geq$ 20%). This goal will be reached in significant part through a program of continuous improvement in efficiency that should generate annual synergies of EUR 300 million by 2010. At the end of 2008, annual savings reached about EUR 240 million. Additional savings anticipated for 2009 are EUR 35 million.

  The savings realized were in part reinvested in activities designed to promote future growth and profitability. They also helped mitigate the effect of forced reductions in sales prices and the impact of generic products.

- Solvay Pharmaceuticals launched its **Transformation 2015** project in order to prepare for the many challenges ahead for the pharmaceuticals industry. Different initiatives are under way, including the establishment of a new organization. The main changes are the creation of a separate Research department, the merger of Development and Marketing activities into the "Market Access" department and the reinforcement of the "New Business Development" department. This new organization will improve supply of new molecules and ensure their development into new drugs offering added value to patients and other stakeholders.

- In **Research and Development**, the focus of the pipeline on the two main therapeutic areas, cardiometabolics and neuroscience, continues; added to these are two therapeutic niches: pancreatic enzymes and influenza vaccines.
  An analysis of the potential therapeutic effects, considering current regulatory and economic environment, has led to a decrease in the number of projects in development. In this context, Solvay Pharmaceuticals decided, together with its partner Lundbeck, to stop the clinical development program of bifeprunox (for schizophrenia) in Europe. The interim results of the Phase-III studies indicated that regulatory approval by the EMEA would become unlikely. Consequently, development activities in the United States, which were on hold, have also been stopped.
  It should be noted also that two other research projects have been stopped in the area of pancreatic enzymes: SLV340 (in pre-clinical phase) and SLV339 (in phase II).
  The Research and Development budget for 2009 will be similar (EUR 435 million) to 2008.

- Solvay Pharmaceuticals also reinforced the **geographic expansion** of its major products (fenofibrate, Androgel®, Creon®, Duodopa®) by establishing solid commercial platforms in new markets, such as Russia, Brazil, Mexico, China, India, and Turkey. In 2008, emerging markets represented about 20% of sales in the Pharmaceuticals Sector. In addition, Solvay Pharmaceuticals recently concluded agreements with the companies ChemDiv (Russia) and Huya (China) permitting growth of its potential in research and development.

- In the **cardiometabolic franchise,** several important developments took place over the past few months in the treatment of dyslipidemia:
  - In December 2008, the FDA approved for the American market the drug TriLipix™, a new-generation fenofibrate co-developed with Abbott. This drug contributes to reduction of triglycerides and LDL ("bad" cholesterol) levels and an increase in the HDL ("good" cholesterol) levels in patients suffering from mixed lipid problems. TriLipix™ is the first and only fibrate whose use is indicated in combination with a statin. Solvay Pharmaceuticals is co-promoting TriLipix™ with Abbott in the United States.
  - Additionally, during the second quarter, AstraZeneca and Abbott filed with the FDA a new drug application for the American market for a fixed-dose combination lipid treatment (Certriad™). This is a combination of Crestor® (rosuvastatin, AstraZeneca) and TriLipix™, co-developed by Solvay and Abbott. Solvay Pharmaceuticals is pursuing the development of its own fixed-dose combination lipid treatment

(simvastatin/fenofibrate) for Europe and the rest of the world outside the United States. The application is expected to be filed early 2010.

Litigation against Abbott and Laboratoires Fournier regarding application of competition rules linked to changes in the formulation (200 mg and 160 mg) of fenofibrate in the USA, and joined by a certain number of American states, is continuing. Settlements were reached at the end of 2008 and early 2009 with some of the plaintiffs; these settlements were covered by contractual indemnities obtained when Fournier was acquired.

Following the recent publication of the EMEA[8] regarding, among other things, the revision of indications for the class of fibrates in the European Union, Solvay Pharmaceuticals believes that this decision does not appropriately reflect the risk-benefit ratio of fenofibrate, and is taking the necessary actions to guarantee that patients can continue to benefit from the total therapeutic value of the product.

Two other molecules are in phase-II development: SLV320 (acute cardiac failure) and Daglutril (SLV306: pulmonary hypertension).

- In **neuroscience**, phase-III studies of pardoprunox (SLV308) are continuing, with a goal of submitting a registration dossier by 2012. With regard to Duodopa®, phase-III studies are continuing in the United States. It should be noted that this molecule has obtained the status of "Orphan Drug" in Japan. In addition, in November 2008, Solvay Pharmaceuticals acquired from the company Depomed. Inc. exclusive rights to Gabapentin ER® for the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Gabapentin ER®, currently in phase-III development, will offer, once approved, a new alternative for treatment of postherpetic neuralgia.
- In the area of **pancreatic enzymes**, Solvay Pharmaceuticals received in April 2009 approval by the FDA for Creon®. This is the first and currently only pancreatic enzyme approved in the United States. It should be recalled that the FDA required approval before April 2010 of all pancreatic enzymes currently sold on the American market. The new formulation of Creon®, as approved by the FDA, is available on the market since July. Phase-III studies are ongoing in Japan in collaboration with our partner, Eisai.
- In line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), Solvay is using its production capacity for vaccines based on chicken eggs for production of the seasonal **flu vaccine**, which will be completed at the end of August.

  The new manufacturing plant for production of cell culture based flu vaccines, located in the Netherlands, is being validated. This is a necessary preliminary to any commercialization. The first commercialization of this new category of seasonal flu vaccines is set for 2009 in the Russian market. The development program for a seasonal cell culture based vaccine (both in Europe and the United States) is continuing.
  Furthermore, production of cell-culture based vH1N1 (pandemic) vaccine for clinical studies will start in August.

  Solvay decided not to participate in the second request for proposal of the American department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for construction of a vaccine-manufacturing facility in the United States; this decision was motivated by the economics of the project. As a consequence, the HHS notified Solvay Pharmaceuticals of the cancellation of the contract for design of a production unit in the United States and clinical development of a cell culture based influenza vaccine. As mentioned above, Solvay Pharmaceuticals will continue on its own the development of a seasonal cell culture based vaccine for the United States.

- In the area of **hormone replacement therapy,** regarding ANDROGEL®**,** Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was informed in January 2009 that the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Attorney General of California filed suit in U.S. District Court in California (the suit since then has been transferred to a US District Court in Georgia) contesting the validity of the agreements concluded in 2006 with Watson and Par.Subsequently, tentative class action suits were filed on behalf of purchasers of this drug in different jurisdictions in the United States. Solvay Pharmaceuticals is disputing the merits of this case and will defend its actions in court.

  In addition, Perrigo Israel Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. has filed an ANDA with the FDA seeking approval of a generic version of ANDROGEL® 1% in the United States. Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc. decided not to file a patent infringement suit at this time against Perrigo Israel Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.

  Solvay Pharmaceuticals submitted to the FDA, in the beginning of 2009, a new drug application for a low volume formulation of Androgel®; once approved, this new formulation will offer a new therapeutic option for patients suffering from low testosterone levels. This low volume formulation is not within the scope of Perrigo's abbreviated application.

  In addition, in May 2009 Solvay Pharmaceuticals concluded a licensing agreement with Lipocine Inc. for the development and commercialization of an oral testosterone-replacement therapy.

8 EMEA: Agence européenne des médicaments ("European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products")

Sales of principal products by therapeutic class

Million EUR	2008	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2009 / 1st half 2008	1st half 2009 / 1st half 2008 *(at constant exchange rates)*
PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR	**2,699**	**1,249**	**1,292**	**+4%**	**+1%**
CARDIOMETABOLIC	**812**	**373**	**367**	**-2%**	**-3%**
Fenofibrate	511	221	214	-3%	-8%
Teveten®	116	63	56	-11%	-9%
Physiotens®	47	24	22	-7%	-3%
NEUROSCIENCE	**411**	**221**	**181**	**-18%**	**-18%**
Serc®	165	81	70	-14%	-9%
Luvox®	89	40	46	+13%	+2%
Duodopa®	42	19	27	+40%	+43%
FLU VACCINES	**137**	**21**	**22**	**+5%**	**+14%**
Influvac®	116	11	9	-15%	-10%
PANCREATIC ENZYMES (Creon®)	**217**	**103**	**123**	**+19%**	**+17%**
GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY	**243**	**122**	**116**	**-5%**	**-2%**
Duphalac®	104	51	54	+5%	+8%
Duspatal®	67	33	32	-2%	+4%
Dicetel®	34	17	14	-19%	-16%
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HEALTH	**648**	**291**	**371**	**+27%**	**+17%**
Androgel®	337	149	214	+44%	+26%
Duphaston®	96	45	53	+17%	+24%
Prometrium®	82	37	51	+38%	+20%

Comments

- Pharmaceuticals Sector **sales** in the first half of 2009 amounted to EUR 1,292 million, up 4% compared to the first half of 2008. At constant exchange rates, they would have increased by 1%.

  The fenofibrate franchise (Trilipix™, TriCor®, Lipanthyl®) continues to develop well. In the United States, sales of TriCor® 145mg NFE and Trilipix™ (USD 588 million) booked by Abbott improved by 6% in the first half of 2009 compared to 2008 (+9% in the second quarter). Prescriptions of Trilipix™ were in line with our expectations. Sales increased in other countries and regions such as Australia and some emerging markets. Sales for the first half of 2009 for the fenofibrate franchise (EUR 214 million) did not totally reflect the sales during the period. This is explained by the EUR 39 million of revenues recorded for Trilipix™ in December 2008 after its approval by the FDA, related to sales to supply the distribution network for this drug in the United States.
  Additionally, sales for the Sector benefited from the sustained growth of other drugs such as Androgel® and Creon®, up respectively by 44% and 19% compared to last year. They were however negatively impacted by the sharp decrease in sales of Marinol® (EUR -38 million), which became generic in June 2008.

  In terms of geography, sales were up in the United States (except for Marinol®, following the favorable evolution of the main products and the positive exchange rate impact) and, despite the negative effects of exchange rates, in emerging countries (Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East). They were down in Europe (competitive pressures from generics and impact of negative exchange rates).
- **Research & Development** expenditures amounted to EUR 221 million (17.1% of sales) compared to EUR 227 million in the first half of 2008. They were used primarily for the development of molecules in the cardiometabolic and neuroscience areas.
- The **operating result** (EUR 206 million) was down compared to the first half of 2008. This included miscellaneous income for a the total amount of EUR 71 million (EUR 44 million in the second quarter), linked to the sale of non-strategic products. Were it not for these items, the operating result for the first half of 2009 would be clearly higher than that of the first half of last year (+18%).

CHEMICALS SECTOR

Strategic developments

The strategy of the Chemicals Sector is characterized:

- by **continuous reinforcement of competitiveness** (operating excellence, world-class plants and high-performance management of energy and of the portfolio of products)

  With the goal of permanently optimizing its portfolio of products, Solvay decided in 2008 to sell its precipitated calcium carbonate activity.

Several restructuring measures are currently under way, following those announced and implemented in 2008. Thus, at the start of April 2009, Solvay announced its intention to mothball the hydrogen peroxide unit at Bitterfeld (Germany). The small size of this plant meant that it could not longer be operated competitively in the context of restructuring of the European pulp and paper industry. Additionally, Solvay announced the closing of a fluorinated-products manufacturing site in the United States (Catoosa).

The Chemicals Sector is also particularly attentive to the rapidly changing energy situation and is multiplying initiatives to mitigate these negative effects (technological leadership, high-performance industrial infrastructures, cogeneration units, coverage through medium- and long-term supply contracts, participation in the Exeltium consortium, etc.). Recently, Solvay formed a partnership with the company Tönsmeier for construction of a cogeneration unit using secondary fuels at the Bernburg (Germany) site as well as development of its partnership with the company Dalkia at Tavaux (France) for construction of a cogeneration unit supplied by biomass. These two cogeneration units will be operational respectively in 2010 and 2011.

➢ by **technological innovation and geographic expansion**

In the framework of a partnership with BASF and Dow Chemical Company, construction of a first high-yield mega-plant for hydrogen peroxide (230,000 tons/year) was successfully completed in July 2008 at Antwerp (Belgium). Production officially started up on March 1, 2009. Construction, in partnership with Dow Chemical Company, of a second high-yield mega-plant (330,000 tons/year) began in Thailand (with startup scheduled for 2011). These two plants will ensure supply of hydrogen peroxide for propylene oxide production units. They mark a new step in production technology for this product: lower investments, economies of scale and optimized energy and raw material consumption.

Also in Thailand, the decision was made to build an epichlorhydrin production unit (100,000 tons/year) based on natural glycerin (the EPICEROL® process). It will help meet the demand for epichlorhydrin in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Bulgaria, it was decided to increase the capacity of the soda ash production unit by 300,000 tons to reach an annual capacity of 1,500,000 tons in 2010. The new unit for steam production on site is in the startup phase.

In Egypt, Solvay acquired in October 2008 the Alexandria Sodium Carbonate Company (soda ash unit; current capacity: 130,000 tons/year). It will help meet the growing demand for soda ash from Egyptian customers and from Middle Eastern and North African countries.

➢ by **growth in specialties**

In sodium bicarbonate, a new production unit is being started up in Rosignano (Italy). It will help respond to the dynamic growth in this market. Another product is SOLVAIR® Select 300, specifically designed for treatment of sulfur dioxide (SO_2); a new production unit of 125,000 tons/year is being built in the United States and will start up in 2010.

Continuing the expansion of its portfolio of fluorinated specialties, Solvay launched F1EC, an electrolyte additive capable of prolonging the life cycle of lithium-ion batteries. The pilot unit at Bad Wimpfen (Germany) perfected and optimized the production process for transfer to the plant at Onsan (South Korea), where an industrial-scale production unit is currently under construction with startup planned in 2009.

It should be noted that following the decision by the European Commission to impose a fine in May 2006 for non-respect of competition rules in the area of peroxides (which Solvay appealed), in early 2009, some European customers combined to file claims against Solvay. Examination of these claims is in the early stages.

Key figures

(in million EUR)	Sales				REBIT change
	2008	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 09/ 1st half 08 (%)	1st half 09 / 1st half 08
CHEMICALS[9]	**3,096**	**1,528**	**1,406**	**-8%**	**-10%**
Minerals[10] cluster	1,426	705	647	-8%	↘
Electrochemicals and Fluor Chemicals cluster	1,154	554	534	-4%	↗
Oxygen"[11] cluster	448	227	211	-7%	↘

Comments

- ***Operating result for the second quarter improved despite the low level of demand and pressure on some sales prices***
- ***Continued reduction of fixed costs***
- ***First effects of drop in energy costs***

Sales in the **Chemicals Sector** for the first half of 2009 (EUR 1,406 million) were down by 8% due to a general drop in demand. In the second quarter, the sales volume was, however, slightly higher than the first quarter except in soda ash. Throughout the second quarter, there has been a significant drop in caustic soda prices, as well as increasing prices pressures on the other chemicals products, including soda ash. The operating result for the first half of 2009 (EUR 122 million) decreased by 10% compared to last year (EUR 136 million); in the second quarter (EUR 66 million), it was up by 26% compared to the second quarter of 2008 and by 18% compared to the first quarter of 2009 (EUR 56 million). Strict control on fixed costs at all levels had a positive impact on results. More recently, during the second quarter, added to this was a drop in energy costs, which began to have an impact. It should be noted that on average, the energy costs for the first half of 2009 were higher compared to the first half of 2008.

Minerals Cluster

- Sales and operating result for soda ash in the first half of 2009 were down compared to last year. Sales volumes in Europe and in the United States were down compared to the first half of 2008. Significant sales price hikes at the start of the year helped mitigate the greatly increased energy costs observed during most of 2008. Recently, sales prices have trended downward under the pressure of persistent weak demand. Adaptation to the drop in production weighed on the result while the lower energy costs began to have a favorable impact. Results from products derived from soda ash, especially bicarbonate, remained steady, both in Europe and the United States, benefiting from the overall stable volumes and significantly higher sales prices.

Electrochemistry and fluorinated products

- In **Electrochemistry**, sales in the first half of 2009 were slightly down compared to last year. The significant drop in world demand, along with high supply of product following improved demand for PVC, caused a brutal drop in sales prices of caustic soda in the second quarter. It should be recalled that since mid-2008, these prices had increased significantly, to reach a historic high in the first quarter of this year. The impact on the result was mitigated by the decrease in energy expenses in the second quarter. Although demand was slightly up in the second quarter, the situation with the Allylics activities, especially epichlorhydrin, remained difficult, in terms of both volume and sales price.
- The **fluorinated products** activity benefited, in the first half of 2009, from the effects of restructuring of fluorinated commodities effected in 2008 as well as the significant drop in costs of raw materials. Its operating result clearly improved from last year, despite the lower sales volumes in the context of the worldwide economic crisis.

Oxygen cluster

- Although slightly improved in the second quarter, the level of demand of hydrogen peroxide remained weak in Europe following the world economic crisis and problems encountered in the papermaking industry. The situation remained favorable in Mercosur. In the second quarter, the significant decrease in energy expenses helped mitigate the drop in sales price and the reduction of production rates.

PLASTICS SECTOR

Strategic developments

The **Plastics Sector is** continuously reinforcing its broad range of plastics and innovative materials in order to propose solutions to the numerous environmental, economic and human challenges of tomorrow, in close partnership with its customers. Its strategy is characterized by:

9 Including Organics (SBU Molecular Solutions)
10 Including Soda Ash and associated specialties SBU's as well as Advanced Functional Minerals
11 Incluing the Hydrogen Peroxide and Detergents SBU's

- **Specialties**: Creation and capture of growth in high-performance polymers, innovation and globalization and selective capacity expansion.

  The Group is emphasizing expansion of its portfolio of high-performance Specialty Polymers, especially in Asia. It should be noted that in 2008, the new plant for micronized polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) started up in China, as did the new polyetheretherketone (PEEK) production unit in India. These plastics present a combination of some of the highest mechanical, thermal, chemical and/or electrical properties, which give access to numerous applications replacing traditional materials.

  Innovation and research played a key role in this activity, in order to enlarge the range of polymers as well as to optimize the processes and the production costs. The co-development agreement concluded in September 2008 with Strategic Polymer Sciences, regarding production of materials for ultra-high-density energy condensers based on polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), is a recent example of this innovation.

  In March 2009, a new DIOFAN® (PVDC latex) production unit, with annual capacity of 20,000 tons, successfully started up at Tavaux (France). PVDC latex is, in particular, a barrier material used to coat packages when integrity of the merchandise over time is critical, in particular in the food and pharmaceuticals sectors. Other selective production capacity expansions were recently implemented, especially for SOLEF® at Tavaux (France) and FLUOROLINK® at Spinetta (Italy). These capacity expansions will allow, among other things, continued growth of FLUOROLINK® in the paper-coating and textile markets as well as SOLEF® in new applications such as photovoltaic cells, sensors and lithium-ion batteries.

  For Inergy Automotive Systems[12], significant efforts made over the past years in terms of cost reduction and improvement in competitiveness continued in 2009, enabling Inergy to respond to the very degraded situation of the automobile industry. The decrease in headcount continued during the first half; shutdown of the Nucourt (France) plant and resizing of the entire organization will be implemented throughout the year. Also, developments in high-growth areas are under way. Inergy recently announced the construction of a second plant in China (in the Beijing region) and a plant in India (in the Chennai region) in order to benefit from the strong growth of the automobile industry in these areas. It should be noted that, additionally, Inergy signed several major contracts over the past few months with different manufacturers and its technological leadership was recognized on the one hand by orders for its new “Selective Catalytic Reduction” systems aiming to reduce NOx emissions from diesel engines, and on the other hand by four Innovation Awards given by the Society of Plastics Engineers and the Society of Plastics Industry in the United States for its Twin-Sheet-Blow-Molding (TSBM) technology.

- **Vinyls**: Completely integrated and competitive production units, operating excellence and development in high-growth countries.

  In Europe, SolVin[13] continued to reinforce its competitiveness by decreases in costs, energy savings and concentration on world-scale sites. In this context, the unit at Ludwigshafen (200,000 tons/year) was shut down in 2006 and the PVC capacity at Jemeppe (Belgium) will be taken in 2009 from 400,000 tons/year to 475,000 tons/year. This policy enabled Solvin to reinforce its leadership position in competitiveness among the European producers.

  PVC compounds (BENVIC) in Europe are going to refocus their production in 2009 on three sites (which implies the shutdown of a unit at Jemeppe in Belgium), in order to reinforce their competitiveness.

  Additionally, SolVin took a significant step in its geographic development in 2007 by concluding a joint venture contract (50/50) with Sibur. This contract provided for the construction in Russia of an entirely integrated plant, with an initial capacity of 330,000 tons/year of PVC, with the possibility of subsequent expansion to 500,000 tons/year. The severity of the global crisis led to a postponement of startup of the plant.

  In Brazil, a vast production modernization project significantly improved competitiveness of the site by, among other things, use in production of membrane electrolysis. Additionally, PVC capacities were increased from 245,000 to 300,000 tons/year, in line with VCM capacities, in order to accommodate long-term growth in this market. A second phase of development at the site will give an integrated PVC capacity of 360,000 tons/year and will in part be supplied by ethylene made from a bioethanol base.

  In Argentina, Solvay Indupa continued its project to construct a combined-cycle unit to provide a reliable and competitive supply of electricity for the site. The unit will become operational during 2009 with a capacity of 120 MW; it will later go to 165 MW.

  In Thailand, Vinythai in 2008 increased its PVC production capacity by 70,000 tons/year at its plant at Map Ta Phut, to achieve 280,000 tons/year. This will enable it to sustain the growth projects of its customers in the dynamic Southeast Asian markets while improving competitiveness.

  Alongside Europe, Southeast Asia, Mercosur and, in the future, Russia constitute significant areas of growth for vinyls.

12 Joint venture 50% Solvay / 50% Plastic Omnium in fuel systems for the automobile industry
13 Joint venture 75% Solvay / 25% BASF

The strategy of Pipelife[14] is focused around geographic deployment, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, operating excellence, reinforcement of competitiveness (decrease in costs and restructuring, especially in Ireland and Spain) and innovation.

Key figures

(in million EUR)	Key figures				REBIT change
	2008	1st half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 09/1st half 08 (%)	1st half 09 / 1st half 08
PLASTICS	**3,695**	**1,954**	**1,353**	**-31%**	**-96%**
Specialties[15]	1,512	799	578	-28%	↘
Vinyls[16]	2,183	1,155	775	-33%	↘

Comments

- ***Net sales and operating result in the first half of 2009 were sharply down compared to 2008 in the context of the global economic crisis particularly affecting the Plastics Sector's main markets.***
- **Acceleration of fixed costs decrease**

Plastics Sector sales (EUR 1,353 million) declined by 31% compared to the first half of 2008, in a very degraded global economic context. The impact of the crisis was very significant for the Sector's primary markets, which are automotive and construction, as well as electronics and electricity. Sales for PVC were also affected by significantly lower sales prices compared to last year (even though they have been improving since May, considering the rise in ethylene costs). The operating result from the first half (EUR 8 million, including EUR 4 million in the second quarter) was sharply down compared to the high level of last year (EUR 187 million). The measures taken to reinforce competitiveness of Plastics as well as a policy of sector and geographic diversification over the last few years (especially in Asia and Mercosur) mitigated the impact of the crisis on the result. Priority given to cash generation encouraged maintaining some production at reduced operating rates in order to ensure a strict control of inventories.

Specialties

- Slowdown in demand for **Specialty Polymers**, which began in the fourth quarter of 2008, continued in the first half of 2009 (volumes down by 30% compared to 2008). It was amplified by a general phenomenon of inventory reduction, primarily in the first quarter. Its primary markets are affected by the economic crisis: automotive, construction and electronics. It should be noted that the pharmaceutical market (for PVDC) held up better. The drop in demand weighed on the operating result of the first half of 2009, which was much lower than the first half of 2008. The measures taken to reinforce their competitiveness (adapting production, reducing overhead, adapting headcount, improving production yields, etc.) did, however, limit the impact on results of the decrease in demand. R&D efforts in the first half of 2009 were similar to last year.
- Although improved compared to the first quarter, sales volumes for fuel systems of **Inergy Automotive Systems** remained very weak (4.0 million fuel systems, or –37% compared to 2008), reflecting the significant slowdown in worldwide automotive production. The significant impact on results of the drop in volumes was partially compensated by continued very significant efforts at cost reduction. Thus, headcount at Inergy was again decreased in the first half of 2009 (by about 120 positions) compared to the end of 2008.

Vinyls

- Results for **Vinyls[17]** in the first half of 2009 were sharply down compared to the first half of 2008. The situation of the PVC market in <u>Europe</u> remained very difficult. Although slightly improved compared to the first quarter, the level of demand remained significantly lower than 2008 (-20% on 6-month basis). A better balance between PVC supply and demand made it possible to pass along in the PVC sales prices the increased costs of ethylene. In <u>Mercosur</u>, domestic demand for PVC was down compared to 2008; it should be noted, however, that there was a certain resumption of activity in Brazil in the second quarter. The significant decrease in sales price at the end of 2008 had an impact on the operating result; however, it enabled Solvay Indupa to significantly increase its share of the domestic market, since imports were less competitive than in the past. Sales prices have again trended upward in the past few months. Exports from Argentina remained steady through the first half. In <u>Asia</u>, sales volumes for export by Vinythai remained very steady, especially to China. Results from the first half of 2009 were similar to those of last year.
- Results for **Pipelife** in the first half of 2009 were lower than last year, in the context of very difficult construction and civil engineering markets. Sales decreased in all regions. Pipelife succeeded, however, in significantly limiting the impact of the drop in demand on its operating result due to its cost-reduction measures, including a decrease in headcount and improvement in its product line through innovation.

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14 Joint venture 50% Solvay / 50% Wienerberger in pipes and fittings.
15 Including Specialty Polymers SBUs and Inergy Automotive Systems (fuel systems)
16 Including SBUs Vinyls and Pipelife (pipes and fittings)
17 Including since July 2008 consolidation of Solvin at 100% (compared to 75% previously)

REMARKS

1. Consolidated financial statements.

Deloitte has conducted a limited review of the consolidated six-month situation that closed on June 30, 2009. This consisted principally of analysis, comparison and discussions of financial information and therefore was less extensive than an audit that would be undertaken for annual statements. This review did not disclose any elements that would have required significant corrections in the intermediate statements.

The consolidated financial statements were prepared in conformity with IFRS standards as currently adopted in the European Union. These standards did not have any impact on the consolidated financial statements, either for the current period or the comparison period. The primary variations in perimeter between the first halves of 2008 and 2009 involved:

- Overall consolidation of Innogenetics as of September 30, 2008
- Overall consolidation of companies in the Solvin Group as of July 1, 2008
- Acquisition of Alexandria Sodium Carbonate Co. on October 17, 2008.
- Acquisition of assets in the Ajedium Film Group LLC on August 29, 2008.
- On January 1, 2009, consolidation of Okorusu Fluorspar Ltd (Namibia), Solvay Biochemicals Company Ltd (Thailand) and the Joint Venture MTP HP JV (Thailand)

2. Content.

This press release contains regulatory information and is established in compliance with the IAS 34 standard. A risk analysis is shown in the annual report, which is available on the Internet (www.solvay-investors.com).

3. Primary exchange rates.

		Closing			Average		
1 Euro =		2008	6 months 2008	6 months 2009	2008	6 months 2008	6 months 2009
Pound Sterling	GBP	0.9525	0.7922	0.8521	0.7963	0.7752	0.8941
American Dollar	USD	1.3917	1.5764	1.4134	1.4708	1.5304	1.3325
Argentine Peso	ARS	4.8175	4.7659	5.3556	4.6379	4.8006	4.8529
Brazilian Real	BRL	3.2436	2.5112	2.7469	2.6736	2.5943	2.9221
Thai Baht	THB	48.28	52.74	48.14	48.48	48.48	46.66
Japanese Yen	JPY	126.14	166.44	135.51	152.46	160.62	127.24

4. Solvay shares.

	2008	first half 2008	first half 2009
Number of shares issued at the end of the period	84,701,133	84,701,133	84,701,133
Average number of shares for IFRS calculation of earnings per share	82,317,792	82,492,238	82,134,172
Average number of shares for IFRS calculation of diluted income per share	82,447,048	82,678,408	82,134,172

5. Declaration by responsible persons.

Mr. C. Jourquin, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Mr. B. de Laguiche, General Manager for Finance, declare that to the best of their knowledge:

a) the summary financial information, prepared in conformity with applicable accounting standards, reflects a faithful image of the net worth, financial situation and results of the Solvay Group;

b) the intermediate report contains a faithful presentation of significant events occurring in the first six months of 2009, and their impact on the summary financial information;

c) there is no transaction between related parties.

Key dates for financial communication

- September 29, 2009: Solvay Investors Day at Brussels
- October 29, 2009: Results for the first nine months of 2009 and announcement of prepayment of dividend for 2009 (payable in January 2010, coupon no. 85) (7:30 a.m.)
- Mid-February 2010: Annual results 2009 (7:30 a.m.)

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SOLVAY is an international Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs some 29,000 people in 50 countries. In 2008, its sales amounted to EUR 9.5 billion generated by its three activity sectors: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals . Solvay (NYSE-Euronext: SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR) is listed on NYSE-Euronext at Brussels.

Dit persbericht is ook in het Nederlands beschikbaar – Ce communiqué de presse est aussi disponible en français