EMBARGO: Brussels, February 19, 2009 at 7:30 AM
REGULATED INFORMATION

2008 operating result (EUR 965 million) down by 19% compared to the record result of 2007
Fourth quarter affected by economic crisis and inventory depreciation

- **Sales for 2008** (EUR 9,490 million) slightly lower compared to 2007 (+1% at constant exchange rates); Decrease by 4% in the fourth quarter
- **Operating result for 2008 (EUR 965 million): -19% compared to the record result of 2007 (-53% for the fourth quarter)**
  - **Pharmaceuticals (+11%):** Record operating result due to growth in sales of the principal products and geographic expansion
  - **Chemicals (-31%) and Plastics (-40%):** Significant increase in energy and raw materials costs, partially compensated by increases in sales prices; fourth quarter marked by a strong contraction in demand and by significant inventory depreciation, mainly in Plastics
- **Net income of Group for 2008 (EUR 449 million, -46%),** impacted by adjustments to book values, of which for holdings in Fortis, for an amount of EUR -309 million
- **Dividend** proposed: 2.9333 EUR gross (2.20 EUR net) per share (stable compared to 2007)
- **Solid financial structure:**
  - **Net debt to equity ratio: 34%**
  - **No significant maturity dates for debt reimbursement before 2014**

The Solvay Group succeeded in coping with the world economic crisis over the past months due to the diversification of its activities, the rigor of its balance sheet management and the measures it took to reinforce its competitiveness: dynamic management of its working capital needs, strict cost controls, temporary reduction of some production and timely targeted restructuring. These measures will be continued and the 2009 capital expenditure budget was greatly reduced in order to maintain a solid financial situation while continuing to selectively implement the strategy of sustainable and profitable growth. We are confident that the Group will pass through the current crisis while maintaining its values and strong bases, and being ready to rebound as soon as the business recovers.

Group **sales** for 2008 (EUR 9,490 million) declined slightly compared to 2007 (-1%); in the fourth quarter, they were down by 4%. The demand for our principal products, which held steady for the first nine months of the year, contracted sharply during the fourth quarter, following the global economic crisis that led, especially in December, to a quasi-paralysis of certain activities of our customers. Additionally, exchange rates weighed on the evolution of sales. At constant exchange rates, sales would have increased by 1% compared to 2007.

Group operating result (**REBIT**[1]; EUR 965 million) declined by 19% compared to 2007. In the Chemicals and Plastics Sectors, the significant increase in costs of energy and raw materials observed during the first half became more pronounced in the second half and were only partially compensated by increases in selling price for certain products. Besides, operating result for the fourth quarter declined importantly (-53% compared to 2007) due to the significantly degraded global economic context. The **operating margin** for 2008 (REBIT on sales) was 10.2% compared to 12.5% in 2007.

The **net income of the Group** (EUR 449 million) declined by 46% compared to 2007. This result was impacted by adjustments in book value (non cash), positive for US soda ash and negative for holdings in Fortis, for a total net amount of EUR -243 million, including EUR -51 million in the fourth quarter.

REBITDA[2] was EUR 1,436 million (-14%). It amounted to EUR 252 million in the fourth quarter.

The **net debt to equity ratio** reached 34% at the end of 2008 compared to 29% at the end of 2007, reflecting the Group's policy of rigorous balance sheet management. It should be noted that the first significant debt maturity will not occur until 2014.

On February 18, 2009, the Board of Directors agreed to propose to the General Shareholders Meeting on May 12, 2009 the payment of a **dividend** of 2.9333 EUR gross (2.20 EUR net) per share, stable compared to 2007.

Sales from the **Pharmaceuticals Sector** (EUR 2,699 million) were up by 4% compared to 2007. At constant exchange rates, they would have increased by 8%. Sales growth of the major products (in particular: the fenofibrate franchise, Androgel® and Creon®) and miscellaneous income largely compensated for the negative effects. These were unfavorable exchange rates and significant pressures resulting from generic drug competition, especially in France and the United States (for Marinol®). Sales in emerging markets today represent about 20% of sales in the Pharmaceuticals Sector. In the fourth quarter, sales increased by 15%. It should be noted that the approval of Trilipix™ at mid-December generated revenues of EUR 39 million as a result of sales in the United States among others in order to fill the distribution network. Operating result (EUR 509 million) improved by 11% compared to 2007. In the fourth quarter, it increased by 13% despite the unwinding of the sale of Flammazine® (reversal in the

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

fourth quarter of EUR 27 million recorded in the first quarter), as a result of the buyer's difficulty in financing the transaction. It should be recalled that two other non-strategic products (Baldrian® and Alvityl®) were sold during the first half of 2008, generating results of EUR 44 million. These sales partially compensated for the unfavorable exchange rates and expenses linked to co-promotion of Simcor® in the United States. R&D investments (EUR 428 million) were up by EUR 13 million compared to 2007.

For the **Chemicals and Plastics Sectors,** 2008 was marked by the significant and continuous increase in costs of energy and raw materials, which led to decrease the gross margin, partially compensated for by increased sales prices, and by a sharp contraction in demand during the fourth quarter, especially in Plastics.

Chemicals Sector sales in 2008 (EUR 3,096 million) improved by 2% due to the generally sustained demand during the first ten months and to the price increases for certain products. Despite the economic crisis, sales in the fourth quarter improved (+3%) compared to last year, owing to the price increases and to the good resistance of the sales of soda ash. The slowdown in demand at the end of the year led to a reduction of some production. Operating result for 2008 (EUR 238 million) declined by 31% (-54% in the fourth quarter). The Minerals cluster continued its improvement in sales but its results were affected by energy costs. In the Electrochemistry and Fluorinated Products cluster, the fourth-quarter drop in demand for caustic soda was lower than that of production. This was explained by the drop in demand for chlorine, the byproduct of caustic soda used as a raw material for PVC; consequently, the increase in the selling price of caustic soda continued. Results from epichlorohydrin were sharply down from 2007. The Oxygen cluster was faced with a slowdown in demand, in Europe and also in the United States, along with very high energy and raw material costs.

In 2008, **Plastics Sector** sales (EUR 3,695 million) declined by 6% compared to 2007, especially following a significant drop in demand in the fourth quarter. The economic crisis had a negative impact on operating result for 2008 (EUR 264 million, down 40% compared to the excellent result of 2007). In the fourth quarter, the loss in Vinyls explained the negative operating results of the sector (EUR -26 million). It resulted from the sharp drop in demand and prices while the cost of ethylene still remained at a high level. The reduction of production in this context weighed on results but prevented a high inventory surplus. Negative adjustments to inventory valuation (EUR -30 million), taken at the end of the year following a drop in selling prices, were thus limited to a minimum. Sales volumes of Specialty Polymers also fell off at the end of the year; evolution throughout the year 2008, however, remained positive (volumes up by 2%). Various measures were taken to further reinforce their competitiveness and sustain their results (such as gradual selling price increases to mitigate the impact of the hike in raw material costs). Considering the global context, the Specialty Polymers showed a good resistance.

The macro-economic and financial uncertainties limit the visibility in 2009. Market conditions remain difficult at the beginning of the year. The competitive positions of the Group, its diversification, the measures taken to support the profitability and maintain its healthy financial standing will help to cope

SOLVAY Group – Summary Financial Information

Million EUR (except for per-share figures in EUR)	2007	2008	2008/2007	4th quarter 2007	4th quarter 2008	4th quarter 2008/ 4th quarter 2007
Sales	**9,572**	**9,490**	**-1%**	**2,366**	**2,273**	**-4%**
REBIT	**1,192**	**965**	**-19%**	**267**	**125**	**-53%**
REBIT/Sales	*12.5%*	*10.2%*		*11.3%*	*5.5%*	
Non-recurring items	31	20	-36%	12	-31	
EBIT[3]	**1,223**	**985**	**-19%**	**279**	**94**	**-66%**
Charges on net indebtedness	-82	-93	14%	-21	-29	38%
Income from investments	24	-299		0	-53	
Earnings before taxes	**1,165**	**592**	**-49%**	**258**	**12**	**-95%**
Income taxes	-337	-143	-58%	-76	11	
Net income of the Group	**828**	**449**	**-46%**	**182**	**23**	**-87%**
Net income (Solvay share)	781	405	-48%	171	29	-83%
Total depreciation	593	417	-30%	205	139	-32%
REBITDA	1,662	1,436	-14%	385	252	-35%
Cash flow	1,421	866	-39%	386	162	-58%
(per share, in EUR) **Earnings per share**[4]	9.46	4.92	-48%	2.07	0.35	-83%
Net debt to equity ratio	29%	34%				

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 82,585,998 shares for 2007 and 82,317,792 shares for 2008.

Notes on Solvay Group summary financial information

Non-recurring elements amounted to EUR 20 million in 2008 compared to EUR 31 million in 2007. They included a reversal of an impairment on the trona (natural soda ash) mine in the United States (EUR 92 million), the capital gain (EUR 30 million) on the sale of Solvay Engineered Polymers in the United States, restructuring charges in the Pharmaceuticals Sector (for the "Inspire" project: EUR 48 million) and in the Chemicals Sector (EUR 12 million for depreciation of an asset in the context of restructuring of Girindus' activities in Germany).

Investment income included the extraordinary write-down (EUR -309 million; EUR -53 million in the fourth quarter) of holdings in Fortis (non-cash charge), posted at closing at the end of 2008 (EUR 0.929 per share). This holding was acquired by the Group in between the two world wars. More recently, it generated capital gains close to EUR 200 million (in 1998 and 2007) and a dividend of EUR 20 million in 2007.

Charges on net indebtedness (EUR -93 million) were higher than in 2007 in line with the increase in net average indebtedness. Financial debt at the end of 2008 was covered up to 95% at an average fixed rate of 5.4%, for a duration of 7.4 years; the first significant debt maturity will not occur until 2014.

Income taxes amounted to EUR -143 million. The effective tax rate amounted to 24% compared to 29% in 2007. The 2008 tax rate benefited from the reversals of reserves following favorable tax audit outcomes and write-up of prior tax losses, primarily in the 4^{th} quarter; it has been negatively impacted by the non deductible write-down of holdings in Fortis.

Net income of the Group (Eur 449 million) declined by 46% compared to 2007. Interest from third parties amounted to EUR 44 million compared to EUR 47 million in 2007. **Net earnings per share** amounted to 4.92 EUR in 2008 (compared to 9.46 EUR in 2007).

REBITDA amounted to EUR 1,436 million (-14%) in 2008 and to EUR 252 million (-35%) in the fourth quarter. Recurring **depreciation** was stable compared to 2007. Total depreciation (EUR 417 million) was down by 30%, following a reversal of the impairment, in the third quarter 2008, of the trona mine (natural soda ash) and posting in 2007 of the non-recurring depreciation linked to the restructuring in Fluorinated activities and Pharmaceuticals.

Equity amounted to EUR 4,745 million at the end of 2008, up by EUR 286 million compared to the end of 2007 (EUR 4,459 million).

The Group set as a major priority the maintenance of a solid financial situation, in particular in the current economic context. Thus 2008 ended with a **net debt to equity ratio** of 34% (compared to 29% at the end of 2007). **Net debt** at the end of 2008 amounted to EUR 1,597 million compared to EUR 1,307 million at the end of 2007. Special efforts were made to manage working capital in the fourth quarter: its level at the end of 2008 was lower than at the end of 2007. The operating cash flow financed the investments and acquisitions in 2008.

In this context, on February 18, 2009, the Board of Directors decided to propose to the General Shareholders Meeting on May 12, 2009 the payment of a gross **dividend** of 2.9333 EUR (2.20 EUR net) per share, stable compared to 2007. Based on the rate at closing on February 17, 2009 (52.67 EUR), this represents a gross dividend yield of 5.6% and net of 4.2%. Also, it is to be recalled that the Group's dividend policy consists of increasing it anytime possible, and avoiding, if possible, decreasing it. For 27 years, the dividend has gradually increased and has never been reduced.

INVESTMENTS AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Investments in 2008 represented EUR 1,320 million, of which about EUR 100 million were for acquisition of the "Alexandria Sodium Carbonate Company" soda ash plant in Egypt and about EUR 190 million for acquisition of the biotechnology company Innogenetics nv. These two amounts were not included in the announced budget of EUR 1,091 million. Initiatives were also taken for development of specialty polymers in India and China and, in Vinyls, for capacity expansion in Thailand and modernization of the production unit in Brazil. Other capital projects targeted improvement in our energy performance.

The **2009 capital expenditures budget** was adapted to the current economic crisis. It amounts to EUR 638 million. It was developed on the basis of the following two principles: limitation of investments to the level of depreciation, while maintaining those related to health, safety and the environment, and beyond that, concentration of investments on a very limited number of strategic projects. These projects were oriented by priority toward geographic expansion of the Group and toward choices made in terms of sustainable development.

Research and Development (R&D) expenditures reached EUR 564 million in 2008 of which about 75% was for the Pharmaceuticals Sector. R&D efforts for the latter represented EUR 428 million, or 16% of sales. The **R&D expenditures budget for 2009** is EUR 590 million, of which EUR 435 million, or about 75% of the total, is for the Pharmaceuticals Sector.

RESULTS BY SECTOR[5]

Million EUR	2007	2008	2008/2007	4th quarter 2007	4th quarter 2008	4th quarter 2008/ 4th quarter 2007
GROUP SALES[6]	**9,572**	**9,490**	**-1%**	**2,366**	**2,273**	**-4%**
Pharmaceuticals	2,591	2,699	4%	656	754	15%
Chemicals	3,031	3,096	2%	743	766	3%
Plastics	3,950	3,695	-6%	967	753	-22%
Corporate and Business Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
REBIT GROUP	**1,192**	**965**	**-19%**	**267**	**125**	**-53%**
Pharmaceuticals	457	509	11%	122	138	13%
Chemicals	345	238	-31%	69	31	-54%
Plastics	441	264	-40%	92	-26	
Corporate and Business Support	-51	-46	-9%	-16	-17	12%
REBITDA GROUP	**1,662**	**1,436**	**-14%**	**385**	**252**	**-35%**
Pharmaceuticals	559	617	10%	148	167	13%
Chemicals	508	398	-22%	109	73	-33%
Plastics	636	458	-28%	140	27	-81%
Corporate and Business Support	-40	-37	-8%	-13	-15	17%

IFRS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

Million EUR (except for per-share figures in EUR)	2007	2008	4th quarter 2007	4th quarter 2008
Sales	**9,572**	**9,490**	**2,366**	**2,273**
Cost of goods sold	-6,242	-6,381	-1,557	-1,541
Gross margin	**3,330**	**3,109**	**808**	**733**
Commercial and administrative costs	-1,523	-1,567	-391	-440
Research and development costs	-556	-564	-129	-124
Other operating gains and losses	-44	-10	-21	-41
Other financial gains and losses	-16	-2	-1	-2
REBIT	**1,192**	**965**	**267**	**125**
Non-recurring items	31	20	12	-31
EBIT	**1,223**	**985**	**279**	**94**
Charges on borrowings	-106	-138	-28	-41
Interest on loans and short-term investments	23	26	6	7
Other gains and losses on net indebtedness	2	18	2	5
Income from investments	24	-299	0	-53
Earnings before taxes	**1,165**	**592**	**258**	**12**
Income taxes	-337	-143	-76	11
Discontinuing operations	0	0	0	0
Net income of the Group	**828**	**449**	**182**	**23**
Minority interests	-47	-44	-11	6
Net income (Solvay share)	**781**	**405**	**171**	**29**
Earnings per share *(in EUR)*	9.46	4.92	2.07	0.35
Diluted income per share(*) *(in EUR)*	9.40	4.91	2.06	0.35

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

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.

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Million EUR	2007	2008
EBIT	1,223	985
Depreciation, amortization and impairments	593	417
Changes in working capital	-319	356
Changes in provisions	-140	-167
Income taxes paid	-238	-302
Others	-266	-12
Cash flow from operating activities	**852**	**1,277**
Acquisition/sale of investments	5	-453
Acquisition/sale of assets	-433	-747
Income from investments	24	10
Changes in financial receivables	-46	-21
Effect of changes in method of consolidation	6	12
Cash flow from investing activities	**-445**	**-1,200**
Variation of capital (increase/decrease)	-19	-12
Acquisition/sale of own shares	-95	7
Changes in borrowings	188	578
Charges on net indebtedness	-82	-93
Dividends	-243	-240
Cash flow from financing activities	**-250**	**239**
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**157**	**316**
Currency translation differences	-15	-8
Opening cash balance	433	575
Closing cash balance	575	883

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

Million EUR	As of December 31, 2007	As of December 31, 2008
Non-current assets	**6,999**	**7,752**
Intangible assets	662	726
Goodwill	1,210	1,667
Tangible assets	3,885	4,218
Other investments	466	217
Deferred tax assets	524	649
Financial receivables and other non-current assets	252	273
Current assets	**4,180**	**4,513**
Inventories	1,255	1,255
Trade receivables	1,711	1,666
Income tax receivables	73	92
Other short-term receivables	566	555
Cash and cash equivalents	575	883
Assets held for sale	0	61
TOTAL ASSETS	**11,180**	**12,264**
Total equity	**4,459**	**4,745**
Share capital	1,271	1,271
Reserves	3,032	3,179
Minority interests	156	296
Non-current liabilities	**3,963**	**4,185**
Long-term provisions	2,085	2,028
Deferred tax liabilities	245	258
Long-term financial debt	1,565	1,852
Other non-current liabilities	68	46
Current liabilities	**2,758**	**3,334**
Short-term provisions	229	123
Short-term financial debt	317	627
Trade liabilities	1,246	1,337
Income tax payable	86	49
Other current liabilities	880	1,183
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale	0	14
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**11,180**	**12,264**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Million EUR	Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent							Minority interests	Total equity
	Share capital	Issue premiums	Retained earnings	Treas-ury shares	Currency translation differences	Fair value differ-ences	Total		
Book value at the end of the period (12/31/2007)	**1,271**	**18**	**3,834**	**-233**	**-539**	**-48**	**4,303**	**156**	**4,459**
Net profit for the period			405				405	44	449
Income and expenses directly allocated to equity					-82	62	-20	-9	-29
Cost of stock options			8				8		8
Dividends			-246				-246	-11	-257
Acquisition/sale of own shares				7			7		7
Increase in capital									
Other variations			-8				-8	116	108
Book value at the end of the period (12/31/2008)	1,271	18	3,994	-226	-621	14	4,449	296	4,745

RESULTS BY SECTOR

Million EUR	2007	2008	2008/2007	4th quarter 2007	4th quarter 2008	4th quarter 2008/ 4th quarter 2007
GROUP Sales[7]	**10,341**[8]	**9,881**	**-4%**	**2,608**	**2,258**	**-13%**
Pharmaceuticals	2,591	2,699	4%	656	754	15%
Chemicals	3,315	3,254	-2%	824	729	-12%
Plastics	4,435	3,929	-11%	1,128	775	-31%
Corporate and Business Support	-	-		-	-	
EBIT GROUP	**1,223**	**985**	**-19%**	**279**	**94**	**-66%**
Pharmaceuticals	386	460	19%	102	129	27%
Chemicals	346	261	-25%	88	29	-67%
Plastics	426	259	-39%	85	-53	
Corporate and Business Support	64	5	-92%	4	-11	

7 These are sales before elimination of inter-company sales.
8 Figures adjusted following changes in allocation of sales in the Plastics Sector.

ANNEX TO PRESS RELEASE
COMMENTS ON SOLVAY GROUP RESULTS FOR 2008

GROUP

The Group had already anticipated a deterioration of the global economic situation:

- By rigorously managing its balance sheet through a dynamic control of its needs for working capital;
- By increasing its sales prices based on the specific situation of the different markets: caustic soda, some specialty polymers and soda ash (however this was insufficient to compensate for the rise in costs);
- By temporarily reducing production to prevent a buildup of inventory surpluses;
- By strictly controlling costs and implementing targeted restructuring;
- By being selective with investments.

These measures were implemented by Sector with the goal of sustaining competitiveness for each of its activities.

The aggravation of the global economic crisis presented us, in the short tem, with even more difficult challenges. In this context, the Solvay Group reinforced these measures.

PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR

Strategic developments

- ***Continuation of INSPIRE project***
- ***Development of the cardiometabolic franchise: authorization of TriLipix™ [9] by the FDA[10]***
- ***Acquisition of Belgian biotechnology company Innogenetics nv***
- ***Acquisition of exclusive rights to GabapentinGR® for the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico***

- Known under the name "**INSPIRE",** Solvay Pharmaceutials' integration and transformation project has as its primary goal an improvement in profitability of the Pharmaceuticals Sector by 2010 to reach an annual REBIT of EUR 640 million (REBIT/sales margin ≥ 20%). This goal will be reached mainly through a program of continuous improvement in efficiency that should generate annual synergies of EUR 300 million by 2010.

  In 2008, annual savings reached about EUR 240 million, up by EUR 80 million compared to 2007. Additional synergies in 2008 related primarily to optimization of production activities; the number of production sites in the Sector was reduced from 18 to 11 at the end of 2008. Despite a significant development in the sales forces in emerging markets and the acquisition of Innogenetics nv, the global headcount for the Pharmaceuticals Sector has been significatively reduced since 2006.

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

- In **Research and Development**, the focus of the pipeline on two primary therapeutic areas, cardiometabolic and neuroscience, continued; added to these are two therapeutic niches: pancreatic enzymes and flu vaccines. An analysis of the anticipated therapeutic effects with respect to the current regulatory and economic environment limited the number of projects in development. The Research and Development budget for 2009 will be on the same order (EUR 435 million) as in 2008.

- In the **cardiometabolic franchise**, several important developments took place in 2008 in the area of dyslipidemia treatment.

  - 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 indicated for use in combination with a statin. Results from the three Phase-III studies demonstrated that for patients suffering from mixed lipid problems, the combined treatment based on TriLipix™ and statins improved the three essential lipid parameters; its safety was comparable to the monotherapies (TriLipix™ or statins). Solvay Pharmaceuticals co-promotes TriLipix™ with Abbott in the United States.

    Additionally, AstraZeneca and Abbott are continuing the joint development for the American market of a fixed-dose combined lipid treatment (Crestor® (rosuvastatin from AstraZeneca) / TriLipix™). The new

9 Developed with Abbott, also under the name SVL348 / ABT335
10 FDA: American Drug Agency (« Food and Drug Administration »)

drug application is expected to be filed with the FDA in the second half of 2009. Solvay Pharmaceuticals is also pursuing the development of its own fixed-dose combined lipid treatment (simvastatin/fenofibrate) for Europe and the rest of the world outside the United States.

- Since April 2008, Solvay Pharmaceuticals is co-promoting Simcor® with Abbott in the United States following authorization for the American market by the FDA. Simcor® is a fixed-dose combined lipid treatment (simvastatin/Niaspan®) developed by Abbott. This approval generated in March 2008 a milestone payment of USD 100 million from Solvay to Abbott.

As already announced, Fournier Laboratories Ireland Ltd (LFI) and Laboratoires Fournier S.A. (LFSA), wholly-owned subsidiaries of Solvay Pharmaceuticals, continued patent infringement litigation against Teva Pharmaceuticals in the United States, which had requested marketing authorization for a generic version of TriCor® (fenofibrate) 145 mg NFE. Similar procedures were initiated against Biovail, including for 48 mg NFE.

Pending litigation against Abbott and Laboratoires Fournier with regard to application of competition rules linked to changes in formulation (200 mg and 160 mg) of fenofibrate in the USA, and joined by a certain number of American states, continued in 2008. In the framework of the acquisition of Fournier completed in 2005, these risks were the subject of contractual indemnities. Settlements were made at the end of 2008 with certain plaintiffs; these settlements were covered by contractual indemnities.

Following the recent publication of the EMEA[11] decision 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 benefits-to-risks ratio of fenofibrate, and will take the necessary actions to guarantee that patients can continue to benefit from the total therapeutic value of the product.

In May 2008, Pulzium® (treatment of arrhythmia) was approved in Europe (United Kingdom, Sweden and Spain). This drug is available for licensing. Development of this molecule in the United States will not be pursued.

Two other molecules are in phase-II development: SLV320 (acute cardiac failure) and Daglutril (SLV306: pulmonary hypertension). Solvay Pharmaceuticals decided in November 2008 to halt its research activities for the anti-obesity compound SLV319 (which was in phase-II development). This decision was made after an in-depth examination of the current regulatory context, which generated substantial new obstacles to approval of a medication in this class.

- In **neuroscience**, phase-III studies of pardoprunox (SLV308) are continuing, with a goal of submitting a registration application by 2012. With regard to Duodopa®, the first phase-III study began in the United States. The development program for bifeprunox with Lundbeck in Europe is continuing. Development activities in the United States are on hold. It should be recalled that in August 2007, the FDA had judged that the product could not be approved at that stage, which led Wyeth to end this collaboration in February 2008. The development of the molecules SLV313 and SLV314 has been discontinued. Additionally, in November 2008, Solvay Pharmaceuticals acquired from the company Depomed. Inc. exclusive rights to Gabapentin GR® for the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Gabapentin GR®, currently in phase-III development, will offer, once approved, a new alternative for treatment of post-therapeutic neuralgia.
- In the area of **pancreatic enzymes** (Creon®), Solvay Pharmaceuticals submitted its response to the FDA, following the approvable letter received in August 2007. Its decision is expected by the end of the first quarter 2009. In December 2008, Creon® was the subject of a review by the FDA Advisory Committee. This committee emphasized the great medical need for pancreatic enzymes and qualified the potential risk of viral infection transmission as very low. Phase-III studies are under way in Japan in collaboration with our partner, Eisai.
- The new manufacturing plant for production of **cell-based flu vaccines**, located in the Netherlands, is being validated. This step is preliminary to any commercialization. This new plant began producing vaccines for clinical trials. The first commercialization of this new category of flu vaccines is set for 2009 on the Russian market. In the United States, economic parameters for the project of development of flu vaccines set up with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) do not permit adequate profitability for Solvay Pharmaceuticals. It was decided not to participate in the second request for proposal from HHS for construction of a facility for production of vaccines in the United States. The development program of the vaccine for Europe and the United States is continuing.
- Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was informed in January 2009 that the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the California attorney general filed suit in the U.S. District Court of California contesting the validity of the agreements concluded in 2006 with Watson and Par regarding **Androgel®**. Solvay Pharmaceuticals is disputing the merits of this case and will defend its actions in court.
- Solvay Pharmaceuticals acquired in 2008 the Belgian biotechnology firm **Innogenetics nv**, in the framework of a transaction valued at 6.50 EUR per share (about EUR 200 million for 100% of shares). The Innogenetics listing was removed from Euronext Brussels at the end of 2008. Solvay will continue development and expansion of the diagnostic activities of Innogenetics. In addition, the R&D competencies of the two

11 EMEA: Agence européenne des médicaments (“European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products”)

companies will be leveraged so as to accelerate development of Solvay's pipeline of therapies, through implementation of technologies relating to bio-markers, diagnostics and associated diagnostics.

- Solvay Pharmaceuticals also reinforced the **geographic expansion** of its major products (fenofibrate, Androgel®, Creon®, Duodopa®) by establishing solid commercial platforms on new markets, such as Russia, Brazil, Mexico, China, India, and Turkey. Emerging markets today represent about 20% of sales in the Pharmaceuticals Sector.
- Solvay Pharmaceuticals launched its "**Transformation 2015**" project in order to prepare for numerous challenges that the pharmaceuticals industry will face. Different initiatives are under way, including the setup of a new organization. The main changes are creation of a separate Research department, merger of the Development and Marketing activities into the "Market Access" department and reinforcement of the "New Business Development" department. This new organization will enable improved supply of new molecules and ensure their development in new medications offering added value to patients and to all the other stakeholders.

Sales of principal products by therapeutic class

Million EUR	2007	2008	2008/2007	2008/2007 *(at constant exchange rates)*
PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR	**2,591**	**2,699**	**+4%**	**+8%**
CARDIOMETABOLIC	**728**	**812**	**+12%**	**+16%**
Fenofibrate	433	511	+18%	+24%
Teveten®	106	116	+9%	+9%
Physiotens®	49	47	-3%	-3%
NEUROSCIENCE	**439**	**411**	**-6%**	**-5%**
Serc®	150	165	+10%	+10%
Luvox®	83	89	+7%	+6%
Marinol®	105	47	-56%	-53%
FLU VACCINES	**159**	**137**	**-14%**	**-13%**
Influvac®	127	116	-9%	-8%
PANCREATIC ENZYMES (Creon®)	**198**	**217**	**+9%**	**+13%**
GASTROENTEROLOGY	**233**	**243**	**+4%**	**+6%**
Duphalac®	99	104	+6%	+7%
Duspatal®	63	67	+7%	+8%
Dicetel®	36	34	-6%	-2%
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S HEALTH	**627**	**648**	**+3%**	**+9%**
Androgel®	308	337	+9%	+17%
Duphaston®	90	96	+7%	+8%
Prometrium®	80	82	+3%	+11%

Comments

- In 2008 Pharmaceuticals Sector **sales** amounted to EUR 2,699 million, up by 4% compared to 2007 (+15% in the fourth quarter). At constant exchange rates, they would have increased by 8% (+13% in the fourth quarter). The important sales growth of major products and miscellaneous income largely compensated for negative exchange rate effects (EUR -91 million) and the significant pressures from generic drugs competition, especially in France (EUR -24 million) and in the United States (Marinol®: EUR -58 million).

  Sales are divided primarily between Europe (European Union: 36%) and the Americas (40%). In the United States, sales improved by 14% in USD (+7% in EUR); prescriptions and prices of the principal drugs continued to evolve favorably. Sales in Europe improved overall, due to the geographic expansion of our portfolio of products. Sales in emerging markets (Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East) continued to grow. These markets today represent about 20% of sales.

  Sales in cardiometabolics improved by 12% in EUR. Earnings from fenofibrate (Trilipix™, TriCor®, Lipanthyl®) amounted to EUR 511 million, up by 18% (+24% at constant exchange rates). In the United States, sales of TriCor® 145mg NFE and Trilipix™ (USD 1,341 million) recorded by Abbott improved by 10% in 2008 and 16% in the fourth quarter. It should be noted that the approval of Trilipix™ at mid-December generated revenues of EUR 39 million as a result of sales in the United States among others in order to fill the distribution network. Outside the United States, sales of fenofibrate were sharply up in other countries such as Australia, Turkey, Romania and Italy.

  In neuroscience, sales declined by 6%. This reflects primarily the drop in sales of Marinol® (which became generic in June 2008) in its primary market, the United States.

  Pancreatic enzymes (Creon®) improved by 9% and Gastroenterology by 4%.

  In Men's and Women's Health, sales of Androgel® on the American market improved by 9% in EUR (and by +17% in USD).

  Sales of flu vaccines were lower (Influvac® -9%) than last year due to a lower production volume compared to last year.

- **Research and Development** costs amounted to EUR 428 million (16% of sales) compared to EUR 415 million in 2007, used primarily for development of molecules in cardiometabolic and neuroscience.
- **Operating result** (EUR 509 million) improved by 11% compared to 2007. In the fourth quarter, it improved by 13% despite the unwinding of the sale of Flammazine® (reversal in the fourth quarter of income of EUR 27 million recorded in the first quarter), as a result of the buyer's difficulty in financing the transaction. It should be recalled that two other non-strategic products (Baldrian® and Alvityl®) were sold during the first half of 2008, generating results of EUR 44 million. These sales partially compensated for the unfavorable exchange rates, the expenses linked to co-promotion of Simcor® in the United States (EUR 58 million) and a reserve for bad debts of 10 MEUR recorded in December. R&D investments (EUR 428 million) were up by EUR 13 million compared to 2007. In 2007, results included EUR 19 million in miscellaneous income.

CHEMICALS SECTOR

Strategic developments

The strategy of the Chemicals Sector is characterized:

- by **continuous reinforcement of competitiveness** (targeted restructurings, operational excellence, high-performance energy management)

  With the goal of permanently optimizing its portfolio of products, Solvay decided to sell its precipitated calcium carbonate activity. Additionally, several restructuring measures were undertaken. The reorganization of the fluorinated products activities continued in 2008 in order to increase their competitiveness and further develop the portfolio of specialties. The Group also sold the Girindus activities in Germany in order to concentrate development of this company in oligonucleotides from its American site (Cincinnati).

  It was decided in 2008 to convert a mercury electrolysis section into membrane electrolysis at the Tavaux site (France). This investment will permit, on the one hand, reduction of electrical consumption at the site and, on the other hand, further reduction of the Tavaux site's impact on its environment. It will reinforce the competitive position of Solvay in the electrochemistry area. Startup in 2008 of the membrane electrolysis unit at Bussi (Italy) is part of this same approach.

  The Chemicals Sector is also particularly attentive to the rapidly changing energy situation and is multiplying initiatives to mitigate these 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 on the site at Bernburg (Germany) and developed its partnership with Dalkia at Tavaux (France) for the 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 context 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 completed in July 2008 at Antwerp (Belgium). Construction, in partnership with Dow Chemical Company, of a second high-yield mega-plant (330,000 tons/year) began in Thailand. 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 epichlorohydrin production unit (100,000 tons/year) based on natural glycerin (Epicerol® production process). It will help meet the demand for epichlorohdyrin in the Asia-Pacific region.

  In Bulgaria, the capacity of the soda ash production unit will be increased (+300,000 tons/year to reach 1,500,000 tons/year) and modernization of steam production is under way.

  In Egypt, in October 2008 Solvay acquired the company Alexandria Sodium Carbonate Company (soda ash unit; current capacity: 130,000 tons/year) for about EUR 100 million. 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, the construction of a new unit in Italy by 2009 was decided as well as investment in the United States in a completely new product, Solvair® Select 300, based on sodium bicarbonate, which will be used for air-pollution control applications.

Key figures

(in million EUR)	Sales			REBIT change
	2007	2008	2008 / 2007 (%)	2008 / 2007
CHEMICALS	**3,031**[12]	**3,096**	**+2%**	**-31%**
Minerals[13] cluster	1,336	1,426	+7%	↘
Electrochemistry and Fluor Chemicals cluster	1,103	1,154	+5%	↘
Oxygen[14] cluster	528	448	-15%	↘

In 2007, results from the Chemicals Sector and the Oxygen cluster included results from the caprolactones activity (with sales of EUR 79 million and REBIT of EUR 23 million).

Comments

- ***Sales were up despite the slowdown in demand during the fourth quarter, in the context of the global economic crisis***
- ***Results were down: high energy and raw material costs, partially compensated for by increases in sales prices***
- ***In Europe, significant price increase for soda ash in 2009***

In 2008, sales in the **Chemicals Sector** (EUR 3,096 million) improved by 2% (+5% at constant scope) due to the sustained demand during the first 10 months and to price hikes for certain products. They improved by 3% in the fourth quarter, despite the economic crisis. Operating result for 2008 (EUR 238 million) was down by 31% (-54% in the fourth quarter) taking into account increased energy, coal, coke and product distribution costs as well as the global economic crisis. This downturn however was limited by different measures: price hikes in order to reflect rising costs (energy, raw materials), continued reorganization of fluorinated products activities, sale of Girindus activities in Germany (Kuensebeck), reduction in production of some units, etc.

Minerals Cluster

- The Minerals cluster continued its growth in sales. In soda ash, demand remained very steady during the first ten months of the year, in particular in Europe. The effects of the economic recession started to be felt since the end of the year. Growth in specialties from soda ash, especially bicarbonate, continued during the entire year due to development of the portfolio of applications and geographic expansion. The rising energy costs had an impact in 2008 on results in these activities. In Europe, price hikes (annual) instituted at the start of 2008 did not compensate for the increase in these costs. In the United States, gradual price hikes were made during 2008. It is to be emphasized that in January 2009, significant price hikes were implemented for this product in Europe.

Electrochemisty and fluorinated products

- In **Electrochemistry**, demand for caustic soda was sustained until the end of the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, the drop in demand for caustic soda was less than that of production. This is linked to the drop in demand for chlorine, the byproduct of caustic soda used as a raw material for PVC. Consequently, the trend for strong price hikes, initiated in the third quarter (to cover the significant rise in energy costs), continued during the fourth quarter.
  In the Allylics activities, the demand for epichlorhydrin dropped significantly at the end of the year. In this context, Solvay decided to reduce its production. Epichlorhydrin margins have been impacted, since the start of the year, by the high cost of raw materials (especially propylene), by strong competitive pressures and depressed demand.
- Results from **fluorinated products** benefited from the effects of restructuring of fluorinated commodities as well as efforts under way for the development of fluorinated specialties. The commodities market continued to undergo significant competitive pressures accentuated by the strength of the Euro and energy and raw material costs. Production in some plants was reduced at the end of the year (especially in Europe) to take into account the drop in demand.

Oxygen cluster

- During the first three quarters of 2008, the Oxygen cluster benefited from overall sustained demand and sales prices were maintained at good levels in all regions, except in Europe which underwent pressures from restructuring of the paper industry. The economic crisis has had an impact for several months on demand, especially in Europe and in the United States. High costs of raw materials and energy, in particular in the fourth quarter in Europe, also weighed heavily on the results for this activity.

12 Including Molecular Solutions SBU
13 Including Soda Ash and associated specialties SBU's as well as Advanced Functional Minerals.
14 Including the Hydrogen Peroxide, Detergents and Caprolactones SBU's (the latter sold in 2007).

PLASTICS SECTOR

Strategic developments

The Plastics Sector has the will to grow while responding on a durable way to the worldwide stakes. Its strategy is characterized by:

- **Specialties**: Development of high-performance Specialty Polymers, research and innovation, operating excellence, globalization and selective capacity expansion.

  The Group reinforced its position in Specialty Polymers in order to meet the growing demands in high-value-added markets such as electronics, aerospace and medical applications. It is emphasizing expansion of its portfolio of products of high-performance Specialty Polymers, including through acquisitions, as well as geographic expansion, especially in Asia. In 2008, the startup in India of the new industrial scale production unit for polyetheretherketone (PEEK) reinforced the development of new applications for ultra-high-performance polymers used in resins for medical implants. Internal growth was implemented during this year through the startup of the new polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) micronized flake plant in China and the capacity expansions in France (Tavaux) for polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) and polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC) and in Italy (Spinetta) fluorinated fluids for surface coatings (Fluorolink®, Solvera®).

  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. It should be noted that a co-development agreement was concluded in September 2008 between Solvay Solexis and Strategic Polymer Sciences, regarding production of materials for ultra-high-density energy condensers based on polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF).

  In addition, the Group sold Solvay Engineered Polymers (polypropylene compounds designed primarily for the automobile industry) to LyondellBasell in March 2008, recording a capital gain of EUR 30 million.

  For Inergy Automotive Systems[15], significant efforts were made in 2008 in terms of cost reduction and improvement in competitiveness. In particular, the company decided to shut down a plant in Canada (Blenheim) and a second one in France (Nucourt). On the other hand, developments in high-growth areas are under way (Russia, China, India, etc.). Headcount at Inergy Automotive Systems was reduced by about 700 FTEs in 2008.

- **Vinyls**: Innovation, operating excellence, development in high-growth countries (Central and Eastern Europe, Mercosur and Southeast Asia) and continuous reinforcement of competitiveness of world-class integrated production units.

  In Europe, SolVin[16] continued to reinforce its competitiveness by decreases in fixed costs, energy savings and low-cost increases in capacity. In this context, the PVC capacity at the Jemeppe site (Belgium) will be taken in 2009 from 400,000 tons/year to 475,000 tons/year. Likewise, the Vinyls continue to optimize the industrial structure of Benvic by closing the unit on the Jemeppe site.

  Additionally, SolVin took a significant step in its geographic development by concluding in 2007 a joint venture contract (50/50) with Sibur. This contract provided for the construction in Russia of an entirely integrated plant for the production of vinyls, with an initial capacity of 330,000 tons/year of PVC. The plant is designed for eventual expansion of PVC capacity up to 510,000 tons/year. Startup of the plant, initially scheduled for 2010, has been postponed to 2012 following delays in its financing linked to the global economic crisis.

  In Brazil, modernization and capacity expansion for vinyls production (chlorine, VCM and PVC) at the Santo Andre plant will be operational at the start of 2009. In particular, PVC production capacity was increased from 200,000 to 275,000 tons/year and that of electrolysis (converted into membrane electrolysis) from 110,000 to 150,000 tons/year. The second phase of development of the site has been postponed for one year (startup planned in 2012). It will provide an integrated capacity of PVC of 360,000 tons/year and will be supplied in part by ethylene produced from bioethanol.

  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 reach 165 MW.

  In Thailand, Vinythai continued its development in order to have a world-scale PVC production unit (400,000 tons/year) with a strong competitive position. The increased in Vinythai's PVC production capacity of 70,000 tons/year (to reach 280,000 tons/year) in 2008 further reinforced its competitiveness.

  Southeast Asia and Mercosur constitute, alongside Europe, significant areas of growth for vinyls.

  For Pipelife[17], 2008 was marked by continued geographic deployment, especially in Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Russia, etc.) and by reinforcement of its competitiveness (decrease in fixed costs and restructuring, especially in Ireland and Spain).

15 Joint venture 50% Solvay / 50% Plastic Omnium in fuel systems.
16 Joint venture 75% Solvay / 25% BASF
17 Joint venture 50% Solvay / 50% Wienerberger in pipes and fittings.

Key figures

(in million EUR)	Sales			REBIT change
	2007	2008	2008 /2007 (%)	2008 / 2007
PLASTICS	**3,950**	**3,695**	**-6%**	**-40%**
Specialities[18] cluster	1,737	1,512	-13% (*)	↘
Vinyls[19]	2,213	2,183	-1%	↘

(*) including EUR -142 million following sale of Solvay Engineered Polymers in February 2008

Comments

- ***Impact of world economic crisis:***
  - ***Within the Specialties cluster, good resistance in Specialty Polymers***
  - ***Noted downturn in Vinyls; loss in the fourth quarter of 2008***

In 2008, sales (EUR 3,695 million) in the **Plastics Sector** were down by 6% compared to 2007, following a significant drop in demand in the fourth quarter. The economic crisis had an impact on operating results in 2008 (EUR 264 million, down by 40% compared to the excellent results of 2007). The loss in vinyls in the fourth quarter explained the operating results of the Sector (EUR -26 million in the fourth quarter). It is explained by the abrupt drop in demand and prices while the cost of ethylene still remained at a high level. The reduction of production in this context weighed on the results but avoided a high surplus of inventory. As a consequence, negative adjustments in inventory valuation, done at the end of the year following the drop in selling prices (EUR -30 million), were limited to a minimum. Additionally, during the year, headcount in the Sector was reduced by 550 people (at constant scope).

Specialties

- During the first three quarters of 2008, **Specialty Polymers** benefited from sustained demand. The fourth quarter was marked by a significant slowdown in demand (primarily from the automobile and construction markets). It should be noted in this regard that the sale of Solvay Engineered Polymers in February 2008 reduced the exposure of the SBU to the automobile market. Other markets better resisted the world economic crisis, such as for example the oil & gas (PVDF) market, ultra pure plastics (PEEK), pharmaceuticals (PVDC) and polysulfones. Overall for the year, volumes were up by 2% compared to 2007. Evolution of currencies reduced the growth in sales. This also explains in part the decline in operating result for 2008, lower than that of 2007. In order to confront this difficult economic environment, various measures were taken to further reinforce their competitiveness and sustain their results (such as gradual increases in selling prices in order to lessen the impact of the increase in raw material costs). Considering the global context, the Specialty Polymers showed a good resistance. R&D efforts remained steady (5% of sales; stable compared to 2007).

- **Inergy Automotive Systems** in 2008 posted a significant decline in its volumes (11,2 million fuel systems, or -12% compared to 2007); this decline was accelerated during the last quarter (-30%), reflecting the substantial slowdown in the world automobile market. Results for 2008 were also affected by the increase in costs of raw materials (in particular, polyethylene). Significant efforts in cost reduction and industrial redeployment partially compensated for these two negative effects. A plant in China (Wuhan) was successfully started up and there is a startup scheduled for the beginning of 2009 for another plant in Russia (Stavrovo).

Vinyls

- Results for **Vinyls**[20] in 2008 were sharply down compared to the record results of 2007. In Europe, demand remained steady overall during the first nine months, before strongly contracting in the fourth quarter. Vinyls recorded a loss in Europe in the fourth quarter. This is explained by the abrupt drop in demand and prices while the cost of ethylene still remained at a high level. The reduction in production in this context weighed on results but avoided a high surplus in inventory. As a consequence, negative adjustments in inventory valuation, taken at the end of the year following the drop in sales price, were limited to a minimum. In Mercosur, demand remained steady in 2008, especially in Brazil, despite a slowdown in the fourth quarter. Operating results were down, following an increase in American and Asian imports, the shutdown of installations by our ethylene suppliers (for major maintenance) in the third quarter and the devaluation of the Brazilian real. In Asia, 2008 net results were up following the improvement of its competitive position against the Chinese competition.

- Results from **Pipelife** in 2008 were down compared to 2007, especially in the fourth quarter, in the context of a difficult market in construction and civil engineering. Pipelife managed to generate sales that were up by 2% compared to 2007, despite a drop in demand (especially in the USA, Spain and Ireland). The strong commercial presence in Central and Eastern Europe – including Russia – (more than 40% of the sales volume in Europe) almost compensated for the sales decline in Western and Northern Europe. Targeted measures to reinforce competitiveness and development of the product range helped mitigate the impact of the crisis.

18 Including the Specialty Polymers SBU's and Inergy Automotive Systems (fuel systems)
19 Including the Vinyls SBU's and Pipelife (pipes and fittings)
20 Including since July 2008 the consolidation of Solvin at 100% (compared to 75% before)

COMMENTS

1. Consolidated financial statements.

   Deloitte certified without reservations the annual consolidated accounts as of December 31, 2008 and confirmed that the accounting information shown in this press release requires no comments on its part and is in agreement with these annual accounts. The complete audit report related to the audit of annual consolidated financial information will be shown in the 2008 annual report which will be published on the Internet (www.solvay-investors.com) at the end of March 2009.

   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 2007 and 2008 were due to:

   - in 2007: sale of the Caprolactone activity on December 31, the acquisition of Quality Plastics in Ireland (Pipelife Group) in April, an increase throughout the year in the ownership in Peroxythai (from 83.8% to 100%) and in Solvay Sisecam (from 71.3% to 75%), and the partial liquidation of Financière Keyenveld;
   - in 2008: the sale of the Synkem company (Fournier Group) in January, the sale of Solvay Engineered Polymers Inc. in February 2008. The global consolidation of Innogenetics on September 30 2008 (with impact on sales of EUR +10 million and on REBIT of EUR -1 million) and the global consolidation of companies in the Solvin Group on July 1 2008 (with impact on sales of EUR +68 million and on REBIT of EUR +2 million). Considering the future shutdown of electrolysis in Solvin at Zandvliet (a BASF site), the primary restructuring projects included in the initial business plan of the Joint Venture between Solvay and BASF were successfully completed by Solvin, on production units located on BASF sites. In consequence, in accord with BASF, Solvay decided to globally consolidate Solvin as of July 2008.

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 =		2007	2008	2007	2008
Pound Sterling	GBP	0.73	0.95	0.68	0.80
American dollar	USD	1.47	1.39	1.37	1.47
Argentine Peso	ARS	4.63	4.82	4.27	4.64
Brazilian real	BRL	2.62	3.24	2.66	2.67
Thai baht	THB	43.80	48.28	44.43	48.48
Japanese yen	JPY	164.93	126.14	161.25	152.46

4. Solvay Shares

	2007	2008
Number of shares issued at the end of the period	84,701,133	84,701,133
Average number of shares for IFRS calculation of earnings per share	82,585,998	82,317,792
Average number of shares for IFRS calculation of diluted income per share	83,054,100	82,447,048

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 2008, and their impact on the summary financial information;
   c) There is no transaction between related parties.

Key dates for financial communications

- March 31, 2009: Publication of 2008 annual report on www.solvay-investors.com
- May 12, 2009: Results of first quarter 2009 (1:00 PM) and General and Extraordinary Shareholders Meeting (2:30 PM)
- May 19, 2009: Payment of remaining dividend for 2008 (coupon no. 84)
- July 30, 2009: Results from first half 2009 (7:30 AM)
- October 29, 2009: Results from the first nine months of 2009 and announcement of prepayment of dividend for 2009 (payable in January 2010, coupon no. 85) (7:30 AM)
- Mid-February 2010: Annual results for 2009 (7:30 AM)

To obtain additional information:

Erik De Leye
Corporate Press Officer (SOLVAY S.A.)
Tel: 32 2 509 72 30
E-mail: erik.deleye@solvay.com
Internet: www.solvaypress.com

Patrick VERELST
Head of Investor Relations (SOLVAY S.A.)
Tel: 32 2 509 72 43
E-mail: patrick.verelst@solvay.com
Internet: www.solvay-investors.com

Solvay Investor Relations, SOLVAY S.A., Tel. 32-2-509.60.16, E-mail: investor.relations@solvay.com

SOLVAY is an international Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs some 28,300 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