

## Solvay publishes its 2013 Sustainable Development Report

**Brussels, April 10th, 2014** --- Solvay has published its 2013 Sustainable Development Report\*, showing a variety of concrete measures that the Group has put in place to become a model in sustainable chemistry, supporting its long term growth.

*“Sustainable development is a driving force of Solvay’s strategy. It is part of our vision and integrated into the way we conduct our business, ranging from the day-to-day work on the sites to our investment decisions, to ensure that our solutions will answer to global challenges,”* said Jacques Khéliff, Group General Manager Sustainable Development. *“Sustainable development is also a lever for growth: a portion of our business is already oriented towards markets driven by the demands and opportunities associated with society’s challenges.”*

**Solvay last year developed five priorities for 2020** to answer to social, societal and environmental challenges:

- To achieve excellence in safety, health and occupational hygiene for everyone on all our sites in 56 countries
- To increase the share of our sales in markets or with activities meeting the requirements of sustainable development
- To relentlessly improve the performance of our technologies, processes and products so as to avoid any harm and to limit their environmental impact throughout the lifecycle of our products
- To lower greenhouse-gas emissions, energy and water consumption, to reduce negative impacts on soil, water, air quality and the use of resources
- To develop rich and balanced social dialogue

As a first important step in its sustainability commitment, Solvay in 2013 signed a global agreement on social and environmental responsibility with the IndustriALL Global Union, which reflects the Group’s aim to develop a rich and balanced dialogue with its employees and their representatives worldwide.

Another milestone was the launch of *Solvay Way*, the Group’s pragmatic and ambitious sustainable development approach that is backed by a tool that measures progress. *Solvay Way* seeks to build a wide-based culture of responsibility among all employees. The Group’s different global business units and all of its sites across 56 countries are to assess their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) performance taking into account the expectations of their customers, employees, investors, suppliers, communities and the planet. The results of the first assessment rounds are included in various **parts of the present report**.

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*Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français. - Dit persbericht is ook in het Nederlands beschikbaar.*

**Highlights of Solvay's 2013 Sustainable Development Report include:**

- Accidents with lost time per million working hours (LTAR) were 0.8 for the Group's employees and contractors. By comparison, the average LTAR for the EU chemical industry is currently around 6.
- Solvay introduced an energy efficiency control program "Solwatt" to lower the Group's energy consumption. Overall energy intensity was cut by 4% since 2009.
- In five years, the Group has cut its greenhouse gases emissions (GHG) by 12%, at constant activity perimeter, mainly due to the lowering of GHG other than CO<sub>2</sub>. Measures included purchases of lower carbon electricity, use of recycled wastes as fuel and the reduction of emissions of fluorinated gases. Improved energy efficiency of manufacturing processes also significantly contributed to limiting GHG emissions.
- By the end of 2013, nearly two-thirds of Solvay's annual €9.9 billion revenues had been assessed from a market alignment perspective. Of those revenues, 36% met requirements of customers to improve their sustainability profile, and ultimately, led to environmental benefits for end-consumers.
- Sustainability alignment of all Research & Innovation projects is part of the Group's processes: scarcity of resources, the fight against climate change, soaring consumption in high-growth parts of the world and new demands for environmental care, health and well-being are the megatrends that determine the main themes of Solvay's Research & Innovation policy.

*\*The report is based on the guidelines provided in the fourth version of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).*

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As an international chemical group, **SOLVAY** assists industries in finding and implementing ever more responsible and value-creating solutions. Solvay generates 90% of its net sales in activities where it is among the world's top three players. It serves many markets, varying from energy and the environment to automotive and aerospace or electricity and electronics, with one goal: to raise the performance of its clients and improve society's quality of life. The group is headquartered in Brussels, employs about 29,400 people in 56 countries and generated 9.9 billion euros in net sales in 2013. Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on **NYSE Euronext** in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: **SOLB:BB** - Reuters: **SOLB.BR**).

**Lamia Narcisse**

Media Relations  
+33 1 53 56 59 62

**Caroline Jacobs**

Media Relations  
+32 2 264 1530

**Maria Alcon**

Investor Relations  
+32 2 264 1984

**Geoffroy Raskin**

Investor Relations  
+32 2 264 1540

**Edward Mackay**

Investor Relations  
+32 2 264 3687

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