

# 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER & FULL YEAR 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Forenote

Cytec has not contributed to the Group's Income or cash flow statements in 2015, as its results and cash flows for the period between December 9 (acquisition date) and December 31 are not material. However, in order to provide a framework reference going forward, this report includes unaudited pro forma financial data including Cytec, as if the acquisition had taken place on January 1, 2015 (pages 4 and 5).

Besides IFRS accounts, Solvay also presents Adjusted Income Statement performance indicators that exclude non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia acquisition.

From the first quarter 2016, the Group's results will be presented on an IFRS and Underlying basis only (cf. glossary in page 35). The current definition of REBITDA will equate to Underlying EBITDA going forward.

### REGULATED INFORMATION

25/02/2016 7:00 AM CET

# SOLVAY GROUP $4^{TH}$ QUARTER & FULL YEAR 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### Q4 2015 highlights

- Net sales were € 2.5 bn, down 1% yoy. The impact on conversion of foreign exchange rate fluctuations contributed 3% and scope effects 1%. These were offset by (4)% lower volumes, mainly from the downturn in the oil and gas industry, and slightly lower prices for (1)%.
- REBITDA totalled € 429 m, up 4% yoy. Solvay's excellence programs continued to support strong pricing power which contributed 9%, mitigating the (14)% impact of lower volumes. The fixed cost base remained stable, while forex developments were supportive. The REBITDA margin widened to 17% of net sales, up 0.8 pp, representing the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of year-on-year margin increase.
  - → Advanced Formulations at  $\in$  84 m, down (23)% yoy, as the demand decline in the oil & gas industry accelerated;
  - → Advanced Materials at € 186 m, up 8% yoy, underpinned by volume growth and pricing power;
  - → Performance Chemicals at € 197 m, up 4% yoy, thanks to pricing power offsetting lower volumes in Acetow;
  - → Functional Polymers, at € 22 m, up 47% yoy, driven by volume growth in PA6.6 in Europe and RusVinyl's contribution;
  - → Corporate and Business Services' net costs were  $\in$  (60) m,  $\in$  12 m better than last year.
- IFRS net income Solvay share was € 37 m versus € 190 m in 2014. Adjusted net income Solvay share was € 55 m, down from € 208 m in Q4 2014, mainly due to the € (105) m result of discontinued operations, which includes an impairment on Indupa, versus € 183 m in 2014, when a capital gain on the Eco Services divestment was booked. Non-recurring costs and net financial charges came in lower yoy, and tax adjustments related to prior years led to a tax income of € 97 m.
- Free Cash Flow amounted to € 376 m versus € 542 m in 2014, mainly due to a lower inflow from working capital. IFRS net debt rose from € (1.5) bn to € (4.4) bn, following the Cytec acquisition and the related financing. Including hybrid perpetual bonds, the underlying net debt rose from € (2.7) bn to € (6.6) bn. During the last quarter of 2015, Solvay raised funds totaling € 6.2 bn, comprising € 1.5 bn of equity, € 1.0 bn of hybrid debt (accounted for as equity under IFRS) and the balance being senior debentures issued in EUR and USD. Of this, circa € 1.0 bn will be used to refinance upcoming debt maturities.

### FY 2015 highlights

- Net sales were € 10.6 bn, up 4% yoy. Foreign exchange rate effects on conversion contributed 6%, while volumes were (3)% lower.
- REBITDA totaled € 1,955 m, up 10% yoy. Strong pricing power of 11% across all operating segments offset the impact
  of negative volumes of (8)% and an increased fixed cost base effect of (3)%, related to new capacity from 8 sites
  commissioned in the year. The conversion effect of foreign exchange fluctuations was 9%. Excellence initiatives
  delivered more than € 300 m in the year, supporting the REBITDA margin increase, which widened by 1.0 pp to 19% of
  net sales.
- IFRS Net income Solvay share was € 406 m versus € 80 m in 2014. Adjusted Net Income Solvay share was € 477 m versus € 156 m in 2014. The increase in REBITDA and lower financial charges more than offset higher taxes, while the contribution from discontinued operations was negative at € (55) m, primarily due to impairments in the chlorovinyls businesses.
- Free Cash Flow amounted to € 387 m versus € 656 m in 2014, chiefly reflecting higher capital investments for growth in the year, while 2014 reported high seasonal working capital swings and significant cash inflows from discontinued operations. IFRS Net debt rose from € (0.8) bn to € (4.4) bn. Including hybrid perpetual bonds, the underlying net debt rose from € (2.0) bn to € (6.6) bn, following the Cytec acquisition and the related funding.
- **CFROI of 6.9% (prior to Cytec integration), stable versus 2014,** with improvements in Functional Polymers, supported by excellence programs, offsetting adverse market developments in Advanced Formulations.
- Dividend recommendation of € 3.30 gross per share, a rise of 3.3%<sup>[1]</sup>.
- [1] Compared to a 2014 historical dividend of  $\in$  3.40 gross per share or  $\in$  3.20 after adjusting for a factor of 0.9398 following Solvay's rights issue completed on December 21, 2015 (cf. information by Solvay in its respective press releases "3'<sup>d</sup> quarter & 1<sup>st</sup> 9 months 2015 financial report", dated October 29, 2015 and "Solvay finalizes financing of Cytec acquisition with 100% subscription of its rights issue", dated December 17, 2015.

### Quote of the CEO, Jean-Pierre Clamadieu

Solvay delivered solid REBITDA growth for 2015, while seasonality was more pronounced than usual in the fourth quarter due to intensified headwinds in oil and gas and steep inventory adjustments in smart devices at the end of the year. Excellence programs, which continued to contribute strongly, combined with the benefit from foreign exchange movements more than offset lower volumes. Investments to support growth peaked during the year; nevertheless cash generation was sound.

*Our portfolio transformation accelerated with the acquisition of Cytec to boost our growth engines and with the creation of the INOVYN joint venture to prepare for the exit from European chlorovinyls.* 

The high quality of our portfolio and our strong fundamentals give us firm confidence for the future, and lead us to recommend a dividend increase of 3.3% for 2015.

### PRIORITIES & OUTLOOK 2016

### **Priorities**

In 2016 Solvay will focus on executing the Group strategy, continuing to deploy the main levers of its transformation through its portfolio upgrade and delivery on excellence, including innovation. The integration of Cytec is running ahead of schedule and a top priority is to ensure full success and delivery of synergies. In parallel, Solvay will intensify its focus on delivering a markedly improved sustainable free cash flow and deleveraging over time.

### Outlook 2016

Since the end of 2015, the Group has observed increased volatility in commodity markets and inventory adjustments for smart devices applications that are expected to continue in the first quarter of the year. In this environment, and assuming no further deterioration in market conditions, Solvay expects its REBITDA in 2016 to grow by high-single digits compared to the 2015 pro forma REBITDA <sup>[1]</sup> of  $\notin$  2,336 m (including Cytec).

Growth this year will likely be back-ended, reflecting the relatively strong comparables in the first half of 2015, destocking in smart devices, the phasing of our innovations and the benefits from Cytec synergies. More specifically, growth will be driven by volumes and continued evidence of pricing power as a result of the excellence programs, which are on course to exceed € 800 m cumulative benefits to REBITDA by the end of 2016.

With  $\leq 20$  m of annual cost savings already achieved by January 1, Solvay is confident that Cytec integration cost synergies alone will exceed  $\leq 100$  m p.a. by 2018. Revenue synergies will be additional to that delivery.

Solvay anticipates pro forma REBITDA growth across all its four operating segments<sup>[2]</sup>:

- Advanced Materials: Growth from its diversified end-markets will overcome the impact of first-quarter destocking in smart devices. In aerospace, continued growth is expected from the ramp-up of aircraft platforms containing more composites;
- → Advanced Formulations: Growth in health and personal care, agro and Technology Solutions' businesses is expected to offset continuing weakness in oil and gas markets;
- → Performance Chemicals: Continued delivery in excellence programs is to be complemented by a gradual recovery in acetate tow filter demand;
- $\rightarrow$  Functional Polymers: Profit restoration is expected to continue.

REBITDA growth combined with disciplined capital expenditure should lead to free cash flow in excess of  $\in$  650 m, more than 30% higher than the prior year pro forma level.

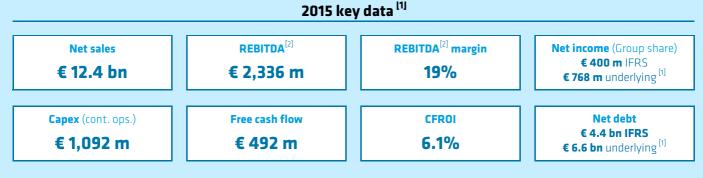
The Group is committed to maintaining its investment grade credit rating. This 2016 outlook is based on a number of assumptions, *inter alia*, anticipated world GDP growth of ~3%, an oil price of 30 US\$/barrel and no recovery in the U.S. oil and gas exploration activities, and on a 1.10 US\$/€ exchange rate.

- [1] The current definition of REBITDA equates to Underlying EBITDA going forward.
- [2] Following the acquisition of Cytec, Solvay has re-organized its segment reporting structure to enhance strategic coherence and improve alignment. The segment reorganization is effective as from January 1, 2016 and is presented in the unaudited Solvay segment information pro forma 2015 on page 5.

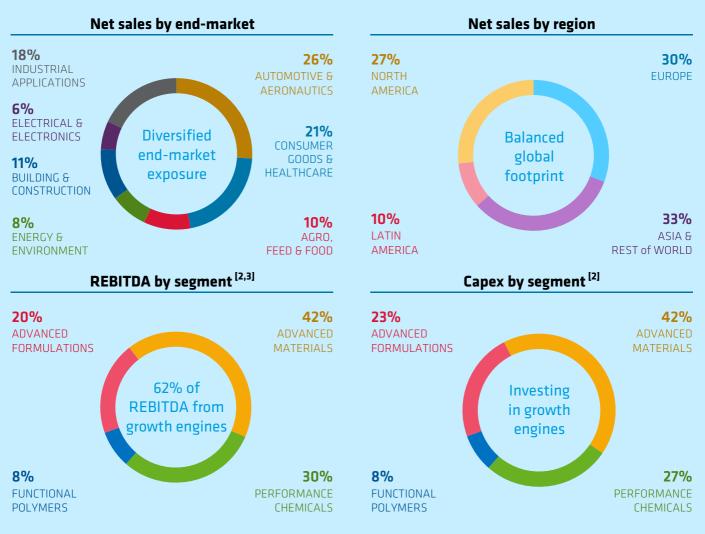
### SOLVAY PRO FORMA 2015

(UNAUDITED, INCLUDING CYTEC)

Following the acquisition of Cytec at year end 2015 and in order to provide a reference frame for the Group's performance going forward, Solvay presents pro forma information for the year 2015 both on an IFRS and Underlying basis<sup>[1]</sup>. These unaudited figures represent a situation as if the acquisition had taken place on January 1, 2015.



An international chemical and advanced materials company, Solvay assists its customers in innovating, developing and delivering high-value, sustainable products and solutions which consume less energy and reduce  $CO_2$  emissions, optimize the use of resources and improve the quality of life. Solvay serves diversified global end markets, including automotive and aerospace, consumer goods and healthcare, energy and environment, electricity and electronics, building and construction as well as industrial applications. Solvay is headquartered in Brussels with about 30,000 employees spread across 53 countries. It generated pro forma net sales of  $\notin$  12.4 bn in 2015, with 90% made from activities where it ranks among the world's top 3 players. Solvay SA (SOLB.BE) is listed on Euronext in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLB.BR).



[1] More information on pro forma and underlying figures can be found in Note 4 "Unaudited pro forma information for full year 2015" on page 28.

[2] REBITDA equates to underlying EBITDA going forward.

[3] Re-organized segmentation as described on page 5, and excluding Corporate & Business Services

### SOLVAY SEGMENT INFORMATION PRO FORMA 2015

(UNAUDITED, INCLUDING CYTEC)

Following the acquisition of Cytec, Solvay has re-organized its segment set-up to enhance strategic coherence and improve alignment. Cytec's former "In Process Separation" and "Additive Technologies" activities largely constitute the new GBU Technology Solutions included in Advanced Formulations, while the former "Aerospace Materials" and "Industrial Materials" activities are grouped in the new GBU Composite Materials that is included in Advanced Materials. Solvay's GBU Coatis is transferred to Performance Chemicals and the GBU Emerging Biochemicals is combined with RusVinyl in the GBU Chlorovinyls in Functional Polymers.

The following figures represent unaudited 2015 pro forma as if the Cytec acquisition had taken place on January 1, 2015.

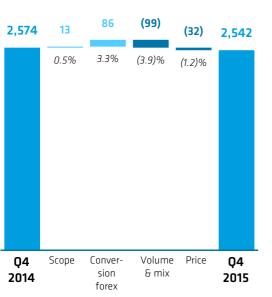
	ADVANCED FORMULATIONS	ADVANCED MATERIALS	PERFORMANCE CHEMICALS	FUNCTIONAL POLYMERS
	Customized specialty formulations in surface chemistry, optimizing yield while minimizing environmental impact	High performance materials, providing solutions for sustainable mobility: light-weighting, CO <sub>2</sub> and energy efficiency	Leading positions in chemical intermediates, through scale and technology	Leading regional positions in Functional Polymers , with focus on excellence
<b>Key data</b> (in € m) Net sales	2,885	4,503	3,052	1,926
REBITDA	522	1,079	770	190
REBITDA margin	18%	24%	25%	10%
Capex	(225)	(415)	(267)	(81)
CFROI	5.7%	8.2%	8.5%	3.5%
GBUs	Novecare	Specialty Polymers	Soda Ash & Derivatives	Polyamide
Net sales	1,895	1,901	1,554	1,448
	Technology Solutions	Composite Materials	Peroxides	Chlorovinyls
	631 Aroma Performance	1,169 Special Chem	558 Acetow	478
	360	912	542	
		Silica	Coatis	
		521	398	
Net sales/region Europe Asia & Rest of World Latin America North America	18% 41% 31%	33% 4% 31%	17% 38% 19% 26%	9% 5% 51%
Net sales/end-market Automotive & Aeronautics Consumers goods & Healthcare Agro, Feed & Food Energy & Environment Building & Construction Electricals & Electronics Industrial applications	3% 3% 9% 9%	9% 14%, 50% 7% 6% 4% 9%	4% 20% 39% 14% 5% 18%	14% 4% 18% 12% 25%

### **CORPORATE & BUSINESS SERVICES**

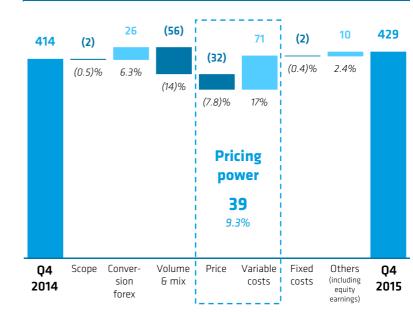
Key data (in € m)		
Net sales	11	Corporate executive, business support and energy $\mathcal{E}$ CO <sub>2</sub> management, to
REBITDA	(225)	optimize efficiency and costs
Capex	(94)	
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### SOLVAY GROUP (EXCLUDING CYTEC) 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2015 BUSINESS REVIEW

Key data		Adjusted			IFRS		
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% yoy	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% yoy	
Net sales	2,542	2,574	(1.3)%	2,542	2,574	(1.3)%	
REBITDA	429	414	3.6%				
REBITDA margin	17%	16%	0.8pp				
Non-recurring items	(119)	(202)	41%	(119)	(202)	41%	
EBIT	123	(12)	n.m.	96	(39)	n.m.	
Net financial charges	(59)	(68)	13%	(59)	(68)	13%	
Result before taxes	63	(80)	n.m.	36	(108)	n.m.	
Income taxes	97	55	77%	106	64	66%	
Result from continuing operations	160	(25)	n.m.	143	(43)	n.m.	
Result from discontinued operations	(105)	183	n.m.	(105)	183	n.m.	
Net income	56	158	(65)%	38	140	(73)%	
Non-controlling interests	-	51	n.m.	-	51	n.m.	
Net income Solvay share	55	208	(74)%	37	190	(80)%	
Basic EPS (in €)	0.65	2.50	(74)%	0.44	2.29	(81)%	
Free cash flow	376	542	(31)%	376	542	(31)%	
Capex (continuing operations)	(297)	(318)	6.6%	(297)	(318)	6.6%	



### **Q4** yoy net sales evolution (in $\in$ m)



### **Q4 yoy REBITDA evolution** (in $\in$ m)

**Net sales** were largely stable year on year at € 2,542 m. Volumes were down (4)%, as headwinds in the unconventional oil and gas business of Advanced Formulations intensified. The acetate tow market in Performance Chemicals was still down year on year, but improved sequentially. Moreover the Group's Latin American activities (mostly in Advanced Formulations and Functional Polymers) were affected by further weakening of the domestic markets. These elements outweighed volume improvements in other businesses, underpinned by Solvay's innovation. Prices were down (1)%, as price increases in Performance Chemicals and Advanced Materials were neutralized by the impact of raw material price decreases on pricing in Advanced Formulations and Functional Polymers. The net impact of changes in foreign exchange rates had a 3% impact on conversion, with the appreciation of the U.S. dollar and some other currencies versus the euro, more than offsetting a weakening of the Brazilian real and the Russian ruble. The net scope effect accounted for 1%, with the acquisition of Ryton and Flux at the end of 2014, and the sale of the Refrigerants and PCC businesses in May and November 2015 respectively.

**REBITDA** rose 4% compared to the fourth guarter of 2014, reaching € 429 m. The volume decrease affected REBITDA by (14)% but was mitigated by pricing power, which had a positive impact of 9%. The latter was evident across all operating segments but Functional Polymers where it remained stable. The businesses benefited from lower raw material and energy prices complemented by excellence delivery. The transactional forex effect, included in the net pricing and impacting results with a delay due to Solvay's hedging policy, was € 23 m. There was a net foreign exchange conversion benefit of  $\in$  26 m, representing a REBITDA increase of 6%, which is less than in previous quarters due to the decelerating year-on-year change in exchange rates for the U.S. dollar and the Chinese yuan, and including the negative impact of the weakening Brazilian real and Russian ruble. Fixed costs were stable on average for the Group, despite the start-up of new sites in the year, thanks to operational excellence measures which also offset inflation. Scope changes had no material impact. The REBITDA margin widened to 17% of net sales, up 0.8 pp.

**Non-recurring items** were  $\in$  (119) m versus  $\in$  (202) m a year earlier.  $\in$  (89) m is linked to the Cytec acquisition, including bank advisory services and costs linked to the hedging arrangements, as well as initial restructuring costs of  $\in$  (19) m. Other restructuring expenses were  $\in$  (29) m linked to excellence programs in the Corporate and Functions structure, the Latin American businesses and in Novecare.

**EBIT** on an adjusted basis was  $\leq 123 \text{ m}$ . Recurring amortization and depreciation charges were  $\leq (199) \text{ m}$ , up 18% as the asset base grew. It also included a  $\leq 16 \text{ m}$  adjustment on RusVinyl, whereby financial charges as well as forex losses on the eurodenominated debt were more than offset by a partial reversal of impairment on the recoverable value of the joint venture, which had been taken at the end of 2014. EBIT on an IFRS basis totaled  $\leq 96 \text{ m}$ , with the difference explained by the amortization impact of the Rhodia non-cash purchase price allocation (PPA) of  $\in (27) \text{ m}$ . **Net financial charges** were  $\in$  (59) m versus  $\in$  (68) m in the same quarter last year. Charges on net debt moved to  $\in$  (45) m from  $\in$  (29) m and include exceptional P&L forex losses for  $\in$  (10) m, versus  $\in$  (5) m in 2014, as well as  $\in$  (8) m of initial accrued interests on the senior bonds raised to finance the Cytec acquisition. The cost of discounting provisions for pension and environmental liabilities decreased to  $\in$  (7) m from  $\in$  (39) m a year ago. These contain net one-off benefits of  $\in$  9 m from higher discount rates impacts on environmental liabilities, whereas last year  $\in$  (1) m was booked. An impairment of  $\in$  (7) m was booked on R&I-related investments in assets available for sale.

**Income taxes** on an adjusted basis were a positive  $\notin$  97 m versus  $\notin$  55 m in 2014. They comprised tax adjustments related to prior years of  $\notin$  121 m, including a reversal of provisions for tax litigation and the recognition of deferred tax assets.

**Net result** from continued operations on an adjusted basis was € 160 m against € (25) m in the same quarter in 2014. Discontinued operations reported a net loss of  $\in$  (105) m against a net profit of  $\notin$  183 m in 2014. In 2014 these still included Eco Services, which was sold at the end of 2014, and the European chlorovinyls business, which are integrated in the INOVYN joint venture since July 2015. The remaining chlorovinyls business in Latin America, Indupa, was affected by adverse market conditions and the remeasurement to fair value less costs to sell led to an additional impairment loss of  $\in$  (88) m. Discontinued operations also included a  $\in$  (20) m provision related to the pharma activities divested in 2010. Adjusted net income Solvay share was €55 m versus €208 m in 2014. Adjusted basic earnings per share amounted to € 0.65. Net income Solvay share on an IFRS basis was € 37 m versus € 190 m in 2014. The underlying net income Solvay share amounted to € 113 m versus € 110 m in 2014 (cfr. Factors impacting net income on page 17).

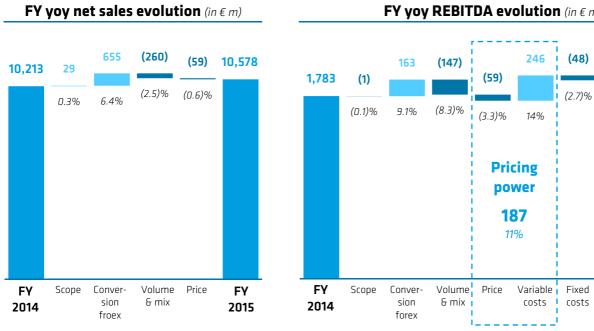
**Free cash flow** from continuing operations was  $\leq 369$  m versus  $\leq 480$  m last year. Higher REBITDA and lower capital investments ( $\leq (297)$  m versus  $\leq (318)$  m) partially offset a lower cash inflow from industrial working capital needs of  $\leq 285$  m ( $\leq 408$  m in 2014). The total free cash flow thereby was  $\leq 376$  m, compared to  $\leq 542$  m the year before, with a contribution from discontinued operations of  $\leq 8$  m, significantly lower than the  $\leq 62$  m in 2014, linked to the reduced scope.

**Other cash flow elements** mainly consisted of the Cytec acquisition and the subsequent financing. These consist of the total acquisition consideration of  $\in$  (5,047) m and non-recurring costs of  $\in$  130 m, of which respectively  $\in$  (4,998) m and  $\in$  (84) m were paid in the period, totaling  $\in$  (5,082) m. The  $\in$  1.5 bn rights and  $\in$  1.0 bn hybrid bond issue resulted in a net inflow of  $\in$  1,477 m and  $\in$  991 m respectively. The issue of senior bonds of  $\notin$  2.25 bn and US\$ 1.6 bn brought in  $\in$  3,693 m net. Other cash flow elements included, among others, interests and dividends related cash-outs for  $\in$  (76) m combined.

**Net debt** on an IFRS basis rose from  $\in$  (1,473) m to  $\in$  (4,379) m at the end of 2015, following the Cytec acquisition and its subsequent financing and adding the Cytec net debt of  $\in$  (532) m at year end. This includes Cytec's outstanding bonds, to which Solvay has given its parental guarantee. The gearing ratio thereby became 45%. Underlying net debt, which reclassifies 100% of the hybrid perpetual bonds (classified as equity under IFRS) as debt, rose from  $\in$  (2,667) m to  $\in$  (6,567) m, which led to an underlying gearing ratio of 88%.

### **SOLVAY GROUP** (EXCLUDING CYTEC) FULL YEAR 2015 BUSINESS REVIEW

Key data		Adjusted			IFRS		
(in € m)	FY 2015	FY 2014	% уоу	FY 2015	FY 2014	% yoy	
Net sales	10,578	10,213	3.6%	10,578	10,213	3.6%	
REBITDA	1,955	1,783	9.6%				
REBITDA margin	18%	17%	1.0рр				
Non-recurring items	(245)	(308)	21%	(245)	(308)	21%	
EBIT	941	761	24%	833	652	28%	
Net financial charges	(226)	(309)	27%	(226)	(309)	27%	
Result before taxes	715	453	58%	606	343	77%	
Income taxes	(135)	(120)	(13)%	(97)	(84)	(16)%	
Result from continuing operations	580	333	74%	509	259	n.m.	
Result from discontinued operations	(55)	(244)	78%	(55)	(246)	78%	
Net income	525	89	n.m.	454	13	n.m.	
Non-controlling interests	(48)	67	n.m.	(48)	67	n.m.	
Net income Solvay share	477	156	n.m.	406	80	n.m.	
Basic EPS (in €)	5.70	1.87	n.m.	4.85	0.96	n.m.	
Free cash flow	387	656	(41)%	387	656	(41)%	
Capex (continuing operations)	(969)	(861)	(13)%	(969)	(861)	(13)%	
CFROI	6.9%	6.9%	-				



### **FY yoy REBITDA evolution** (in $\in$ m)

FY

2015

18

1.0%

Others

(including equity

earnings)

1,955

Net sales grew 4% year on year to €10,578 m thanks to the positive net conversion impact of 6% from foreign exchange rate fluctuations, caused mainly by the appreciation of the U.S. dollar versus the euro. Volumes were down (3)% overall compared to last year. The sharp contraction of the North American oil and gas exploration industry impacted Advanced Formulations. Furthermore the destocking on the acetate tow market weighed on the volume development of Performance Chemicals. These were only partially offset by robust growth in Advanced Materials, which demonstrate strong demand dynamics for Solvay's innovation-driven products. Prices were only slightly down overall, despite lower raw material prices in Advanced Formulations and Functional Polymers, mainly thanks to price increases in Performance Chemicals. The acquisitions of Ryton and Flux at the end of 2014, and the sale of the Refrigerants and PCC businesses in May and November 2015, had no material effect on scope.

**REBITDA** increased 10% reaching € 1,955 m. Pricing power more than offset the (8)% impact on REBITDA of lower volumes. Solvay's pricing power delivered € 187 m, raising REBITDA by 11%, and was evident across all operating segments, outweighing negatives such as the inventory write-downs of  $\in$  (8) m at the year start, linked to the sharply reducing commodity prices. This was particularly the case for Performance Chemicals and Functional Polymers, which benefited from lower raw material and energy prices, which could be maintained in sales prices, and where some prices could even be raised. The transactional forex effect, which is part of the pricing power, was €70 m. Foreign exchange fluctuations had a 9% effect on conversion and has been gradually decreasing through the year as the year-on-year delta on the U.S. dollar exchange rate and to a lesser extent the Chinese yuan lessened, while the devaluation of the Brazilian real and the Russian ruble had a negative impact on conversion. Fixed costs were up  $\in$  (48) m mainly due to the start-up of new sites in the year. Scope changes had no material impact. The REBITDA margin widened to 18% of net sales, up 1.0 pp. Overall excellence measures, covering operational excellence, commercial excellence and innovation contributed more than  $\in 300 \text{ m}$  to the 2015 REBITDA, reflected in the innovation-driven volume growth of Advanced Materials, pricing power of Performance Chemicals and Functional Polymers and the mitigation of fixed cost increases, where inflation was fully compensated.

**Non-recurring items** were  $\in (245)$  m versus  $\in (308)$  m in 2014. The Cytec acquisition represented  $\in (130)$  m of this, including professional advisory services for  $\in (48)$  m, financing and hedging arrangements for  $\in (54)$  m as well as initial integration costs for  $\in (19)$  m. Other restructuring expenses were  $\in (57)$  m linked to excellence programs in the Corporate and Functions structure, the Latin American businesses and in Novecare. Other costs mainly related to environmental provisions of  $\in (45)$  m and impairment charges on non-performing investments of  $\in (48)$  m.

**EBIT** on an adjusted basis was up 24% to  $\notin$  941 m. Besides amortization and depreciation charges of  $\notin$  (733) m, it included  $\notin$  (22) m adjustments mostly related to financial charges of the RusVinyl joint venture, and  $\notin$  (13) m adjustments from other than Rhodia PPA effects (Chemlogics, Ryton). EBIT on an IFRS basis totaled  $\notin$  833 m. The difference between IFRS and adjusted figures reflects the Rhodia non-cash purchase price allocation (PPA) depreciation impact of  $\notin$  (109) m.

**Net financial charges** fell to  $\in$  (226) m from  $\in$  (309) m in 2014. Charges on net debt were stable at  $\in$  (146) m. 2015 included  $\in$  (25) m of exceptional charges linked mainly to the effects of hyperinflation in Venezuela, whereas in 2014 a  $\in$  (21) m one-off was booked primarily from the settlement of interest rate swaps. The cost of discounting provisions for pension and environmental liabilities decreased to  $\in$  (73) m from  $\in$  (163) m a year ago, mainly due to the one-off effect from higher discount rates on environmental liabilities of  $\in$  14 m in 2015, whereas last year  $\in$  (35) m of one-offs were booked as discount rates reduced overall. Losses from available for sale investments were  $\in$  (8) m linked to impairment on certain R&I-related investments.

**Income taxes** on an adjusted basis rose to  $\in$  (135) m, from  $\in$  (120) m a year ago. The increase is due to higher results before taxes. Tax adjustments related to prior years accounted for  $\in$  107 m in 2015 versus  $\in$  123 m in 2014. The nominal tax rate was thereby 19%. The underlying tax rate decreased to 30%, comparable with 35% in 2014.

**Net result** from continued operations on an adjusted basis was € 580 m against € 333 m in 2014. Discontinued operations reported a net loss of  $\in$  (55) m against  $\in$  (244) in 2014. Discontinued operations included Eco Services up to end 2014, when it was sold, and the European chlorovinyls business, which is integrated in the INOVYN joint venture since mid 2015. The remaining activity in discontinued operations is the Indupa chlorovinyls business in Latin America, which was affected by adverse markets. At year end the remeasurement to fair value less costs to sell led to an impairment loss of  $\in$  (88) m. Discontinued operations also included a  $\in$  (20) m provision related to the pharma activities divested in 2010. In 2014 losses from discontinued operations included impairments on the European chlorovinyls assets prior to the integration in INOVYN. The net income Solvay share on an adjusted basis thereby came in at € 477 m compared with € 156 m in 2014. Adjusted basic earnings per share amounted to € 5.70. The net income Solvay share on an IFRS basis was € 406 m versus € 80 m in 2014. The underlying net income Solvay Share amounted to € 680 m versus € 622 m in 2014 (cfr. "Factors impacting net income" on page 17).

A **dividend** of  $\notin$  3.30 gross per share will be recommended. This represents a dividend raise of 3.3% compared to a 2014 dividend of  $\notin$  3.20 per share, as adjusted for the value of the rights distributed in December 2015 as is customary for this type of transaction (versus pre-adjusted  $\notin$  3.40 per share). Subject to shareholders' approval, the balance of  $\notin$  1.94 gross per share (after deducting the interim dividend of  $\notin$  1.36) will be payable in May 2016.

**Free cash flow** from continuing operations was € 391 m versus € 511 m last year. The increase in REBITDA was outweighed by higher capital investments of € (969) m, versus € (861) m in 2014. Furthermore, 2015 reported overall cash outflows from working capital needs that compared with significant inflows last year. Free cash flow from discontinued operations was € (3) m in 2015, compared to € 145 m in 2014, largely linked to the change in scope, namely pharma disposed activities. The total free cash flow thereby came at € 387 m, lower than the € 656 m in 2014.

**Other cash flow elements** mainly related to the Cytec acquisition and the subsequent financing. These consisted of the total acquisition consideration of  $\in$  (5,047) m and non-recurring costs of  $\in$  130 m, of which respectively  $\in$  (4,998) m and  $\in$  (101) m were paid in the period, totaling  $\in$  (5,099) m. The  $\in$  1.5 bn rights and  $\in$  1.0 bn hybrid bond issue resulted in a net inflow of  $\in$  1,477 m and  $\in$  991 m respectively. The issue of senior bonds of  $\in$  2.25 bn and US\$ 1.6 bn brought in  $\in$  3,693 m net. Other cash flow elements included among others interest and dividend related cash-outs for  $\in$  (536) m combined.

**Net debt** on an IFRS basis rose from  $\in$  (778) m to  $\in$  (4,379) m at the end of 2015, following the Cytec acquisition and its subsequent financing and adding the Cytec net debt of  $\in$  (532) m at year end. This includes Cytec's outstanding bonds, to which Solvay has given its parental guarantee. The gearing ratio thereby became 45%. Underlying net debt, which reclassifies 100% of the hybrid perpetual bonds (classified as equity under IFRS) as debt, rose from  $\in$  (1,972) m to  $\in$  (6,567) m, which led to an underlying gearing ratio of 88%.





### SOLVAY NEWS CORNER 2015

## 2015 – a step-change in Solvay's portfolio upgrade with the acquisition of Cytec and the creation of INOVYN

Solvay in 2015 accelerated its transformation with two milestones. It became the world's second biggest maker of composite materials for the aerospace industry and a key player in chemical formulations in mining following the US\$ 6.2 billion EV acquisition of Cytec in the United States. Both businesses complement Solvay Specialty Polymers, which has the world's broadest product portfolio of high and ultra high-performance polymers, and Solvay Novecare's tailored formulations expertise. The acquisition and its financing, including the Group's historical capital increase, were concluded in less than 5 months from announcement. Earlier in the year it started up INOVYN, its European PVC joint venture with INEOS, as part of a 3-year deferred sale agreement.

### A champion in lightweighting materials reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions

The seamless fit between Cytec's Composites, used to build larger aircraft structures, and Solvay's extensive range of Specialty Polymers, widely used for automotive parts, has turned Solvay into a world leader in lightweight materials and a driver of cleaner transportation. The aerospace and automotive industries are increasingly replacing metal and heavier plastic parts with these ultra-resistant and light materials to save fuel and reduce  $CO_2$  emissions.

Solvay Specialty Polymers expanded its high-performance polymers product portfolio. In automotive, it gained access to larger semistructural parts buying EPIC Polymers' long-fiber thermoplastics technology in Germany and successfully integrated U.S.-based Ryton. In aerospace it launched Tegralite a family of high performance lightweight materials which offer the aeronautics industry new downstream solutions and part making capabilities that improve fuel efficiency and speed up the production, refurbishment and maintenance of planes at a lower cost.

### Solvay steps up its Sustainable Development commitments for 2025

Sustainable development is at the heart of Solvay's growth strategy. The Group is committed to delivering solutions to its customers to tackle climate change challenges and to improve its own environmental footprint. By 2025 Solvay aims to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of its operations by 40%, and as of January 2016 is using an internal price for  $CO_2$  emissions of  $\notin$  25/ton, to take into account climate challenges in its investment decisions. Another 2025 target is that 40% of revenues should be generated from products and solutions which are respectful of the environment. Solvay's "Sustainable Portfolio Management" analysis will identify opportunities in this field.

### Investing in growth with new plants

Solvay expanded production capacity and commissioned 8 new plants, mainly in Asia. Solvay's new Vanillin facility in China will boost the Group's capacity by 40%, reinforcing its leading position in the region. Specialty Polymers began production at its fluoro-elastomer FKM plant in China to meet demands from the automotive and other high-end applications and announced the expansion of PEEK capacity with the construction of a U.S. plant. Soda Ash & Derivatives launched its solum bicarbonate (BICAR®) plant in Thailand to addresses demand growth for healthcare, food and other consumer goods. Novecare's on-pipe alkoxylation facilities in Singapore and in the Netherlands are providing a secure supply of this key raw material for a wide range of specialty surfactants for agrochemicals, coatings, HPS, industrial and oil and gas markets. Silica's new plant in Poland produces a new grade of Highly Dispersible Silica (HDS), for energy saving tires for passenger cars and trucks.

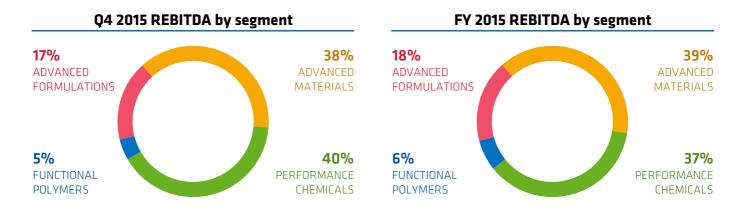
### Solvay ranks in Thomson Reuters 2015 Top 100 Global Innovator

Solvay is recognized as one of the world's most innovative companies, with a ranking in the Thomson Reuters 2015 Top 100 Global Innovator. Solvay Silica launched Efficium<sup>®</sup>, a breakthrough Highly Dispersible Silica, that benefits the automotive industry with an innovative reinforcing filler. It allows for higher productivity and greater flexibility in the production of energy-efficient passenger car and truck tire compounds.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER & FULL YEAR 2015

**SEGMENT REVIEW** 

(EXCLUDING CYTEC)



Segment review			-			
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% уоу	FY 2015	FY 2014	% yoy
Net sales	2,542	2,574	(1.3)%	10,578	10,213	3.6%
Advanced Formulations	615	731	(16)%	2,652	2,854	(7.1)%
Advanced Materials	812	721	13%	3,334	2,762	21%
Performance Chemicals	777	759	2.4%	3,090	2,944	5.0%
Functional Polymers	331	363	(8.7)%	1,490	1,654	(9.9)%
Corporate & Business Services	6	-	n.m.	11	-	n.m.
REBITDA	429	414	3.6%	1,955	1,783	9.6%
Advanced Formulations	84	109	(23)%	378	426	(11)%
Advanced Materials	186	172	8.2%	836	709	18%
Performance Chemicals	197	190	3.6%	789	724	8.9%
Functional Polymers	22	15	47%	141	111	27%
Corporate & Business Services	(60)	(72)	17%	(189)	(188)	(0.5)%
REBITDA margin	17%	16%	0.8pp	18%	17%	1.0рр
Advanced Formulations	14%	15%	(1.3)рр	14%	15%	(O.7)pp
Advanced Materials	23%	24%	(0.9)pp	25%	26%	(0.6)pp
Performance Chemicals	25%	25%	0.3рр	26%	25%	0.9рр
Functional Polymers	6.7%	4.1%	2.5рр	9.5%	6.7%	2.8рр
Capex (continuing operations)	(297)	(318)	6.6%	(969)	(861)	(13)%
Advanced Formulations	(62)	(62)	(0.6)%	(214)	(166)	(29)%
Advanced Materials	(103)	(86)	(20)%	(340)	(267)	(27)%
Performance Chemicals	(90)	(116)	23%	(267)	(275)	2.8%
Functional Polymers	(26)	(36)	27%	(71)	(82)	14%
Corporate & Business Services	(15)	(17)	12%	(77)	(69)	(11)%
CFROI				6.9%	6.9%	-
Advanced Formulations				6.4%	8.2%	(1.8)рр
Advanced Materials				11%	11%	(0.1)pp
Performance Chemicals				8.0%	8.0%	-
Functional Polymers				3.4%	3.0%	0.4рр

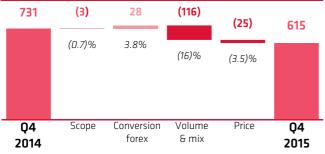
### ADVANCED FORMULATIONS

- → Q4 2015 REBITDA down (23)% yoy at € 84 m, due to the intensified demand decline in the oil & gas industry, impacting Novecare's volumes;
- Further weakening of domestic Latin American market for Coatis;
- Profit improvement at Aroma Performance continued.



Key data						
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% yoy	FY 2015	FY 2014	% yoy
Net sales	615	731	(16)%	2,652	2,854	(7.1)%
Novecare	443	520	(15)%	1,895	2,033	(6.8)%
Coatis	81	115	(30)%	398	484	(18)%
Aroma Performance	91	96	(5.3)%	360	337	6.6%
REBITDA	84	109	(23)%	378	426	(11)%
REBITDA margin	14%	15%	(1.3)рр	14%	15%	(O.7)pp



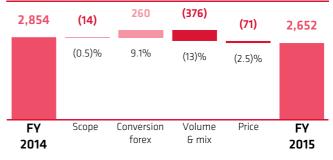


### Q4 2015 performance

Net Sales decreased by (16)% year on year to € 615 m. As headwinds in the unconventional oil and gas markets in North America intensified, volumes were down (16)% in the operating segment, and over (20)% in Novecare. Against a dropping and volatile oil price, the rig count in North America plummeted by more than 60% compared to end 2014, when business conditions were still peaking, impacting volumes and prices in the stimulation and drilling subsectors, while production held up well. Volumes in other Novecare markets decreased slightly largely linked to slowing demand for more commoditized products in China. Coatis sales volumes and prices were down more, reflecting the deteriorating economy in the domestic Latin American market. Aroma Performance sales were affected by lower raw material prices, while volumes were up. The favorable forex impact shrunk sequentially, also due to the devaluation of the Brazilian real.

**REBITDA** fell (23)% year on year to € 84 m in the quarter, mainly as volumes fell further in Novecare's oil and gas business. pricing power widened in higher-end Novecare products used in agro, coatings and home and personal care, as the lower raw materials were partially kept. The volume evolution had a positive impact on Aroma Performance results and negatively affected Coatis. Forex effects had a positive effect overall, albeit at a lower level than in the third quarter. The competitiveness actions put in place mitigated pressure on prices and lowered the fixed cost base. Accordingly the REBITDA margin held up well, dropping only (1.3) pp to 14%.

### **FY** yoy net sales evolution (in $\in$ m)



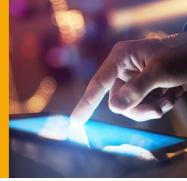
### FY 2015 performance

**Net Sales** decreased (7)% to  $\leq 2,652$  m. With the significant downturn in the North American unconventional oil and gas markets starting in February, volumes were down some (13)% for the segment and close to (20)% for Novecare alone. The market contraction impacted products to the stimulation, drilling and cementing subsectors, while the production subsector was resilient. Business developments in other Novecare end markets were generally satisfactory. Coatis' sales volumes and prices were affected by weak domestic demand in Latin America, where the economy is in recession. Aroma Performance volumes grew, both in performance solutions and in vanillin formulations, demonstrating the progress made following the production outages faced in 2014. On segment level, a favorable 9% impact from foreign exchange rates mitigated the volume drop, while prices were (2)% down.

**REBITDA** fell (11)% to  $\notin$  378 m, reflecting the severe volume contraction in the unconventional oil and gas markets and the degraded Latin American market. Moreover, sharply reduced raw material prices at the start of the year led to write-downs on inventories. Despite sales price pressure, the pricing power was positive, thanks to lower raw material prices, the positive impact of transactional forex and operational excellence measures put in place in those businesses most affected by the adverse market conditions. Combined with the positive effect of exchange rates on conversion (except for the Brazilian real), these measures helped to mitigate the impact on REBITDA margin, which shrunk by (0.7) pp to 14%.

### ADVANCED MATERIALS

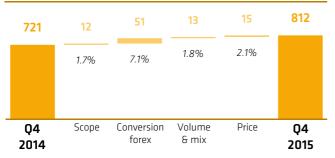
- → Q4 REBITDA up 8% yoy at € 186 m, underpinned by pricing power, volume growth and supportive forex;
- Specialty Polymers volumes stable with continued but more moderate yoy growth, due to sales phasing in smart devices that were subject to steep inventory adjustments.



### Key data

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014		FY 2015		% yoy
Net sales	812	721	13%	3,334	2,762	21%
Specialty Polymers	456	391	17%	1,901	1,490	28%
Silica	134	113	19%	521	451	16%
Special Chem	223	217	2.5%	912	820	
REBITDA	186	172	8.2%	836	709	18%
REBITDA margin	23%	24%	(0.9)pp	25%	26%	(0.6)pp

### Q4 yoy net sales evolution (in $\in m$ )



### Q4 2015 performance

Net sales totaled € 812 m, an increase by 13% from the fourth quarter in 2014, mainly supported by a favorable impact of favorable exchange rates of 7%. Volumes were up 2% underpinned by growth in Special Chem, with good demand for new rare earth compounds for automotive diesel catalysts and the new high-purity H2O2 units in the U.S. ramping up. In Silica, strong sales to the energy-efficient tire market in Europe more than offset dynamics in Asia. The volumes in Specialty Polymers were only up slightly due to mix effects. Demand for smart device applications, although slightly up year on year, experienced a pronounced sequential drop, reflecting both seasonal factors and inventory adjustments. Prices for the segment were also up by 2%. The net scope effect explains the remaining 2%, with the acquisition of Ryton and Flux at the end of 2014, and the sale of the refrigerants and PCC businesses in May and November 2015 respectively.

**REBITDA** rose 4%, a more moderate pace than in the previous quarters, to reach € 186 m, supported by pricing power and volume growth. New capacity additions in Silica (Poland) and Specialty Polymers (FKM in China and PEEK in India) increased fixed costs, ahead of volumes while these plants are ramping up. The impact of foreign exchange on conversion was positive. Scope effects were net negative, resulting in a REBITDA margin drop of (0.9) pp from 24% to 23% year on year.

### **FY** yoy net sales evolution (in $\in$ m)

2,762	112	256	178	26	3,334
	4.1%	9.3%	6.4%	0.5%	
FY 2014	Scope	Conversion forex	Volume & mix	Price	FY 2015

### FY 2015 performance

Net sales grew 21% to € 3,334 m, as a result of 6% higher volumes and 1% higher prices, and supported by the positive effects of forex and scope of 9% and 4% respectively. The latter includes the acquisitions of Ryton and Flux in 2014, and the sale of the refrigerants and PCC businesses in 2015. The primary growth drivers for Specialty Polymers were strong demand from the smart device industry, as well as from the automotive sector and other high-end applications. Solvay's ability to grow faster than these markets illustrates the success of its broad highperformance polymer portfolio. In smart devices, however, the phasing of orders depends on the timing and success rate of the launch of specific devices, which causes volatility of demand over the guarters. Silica sales benefitted from both price and volume increases, with demand for energy-efficient tires in Europe and North America growing, whereas businesses conditions in Asia were subdued. Special Chem recorded good volume growth in rare earth compounds, mainly for automotive diesel catalysts, as well as in fluor specialties and electronic materials.

**REBITDA** came at € 836 m, an 18% increase, reflecting volume growth in all GBUs and especially in Specialty Polymers. The segment also benefited from supportive forex and pricing power. New capacity additions in Silica and Specialty Polymers increased fixed costs, but had no material impact on volumes for now as these plants are ramping up gradually following lengthy qualification programs. As a result of the scope effects, which were net negative, the REBITDA margin shrunk (0.6) pp from 26% to 25% year on year.

### PERFORMANCE **CHEMICALS**

- $\rightarrow$  Q4 REBITDA at  $\in$  197 m, up 4% yoy, thanks to excellence initiatives underpinning pricing power and supportive forex more than offsetting lower volumes;
- $\rightarrow$ Volumes down (2)% due to on-going, though now slowing, destocking in the acetate tow market, and increased competitive pressure on the seaborne soda ash market.

190

25%



5.0%

13%

8.9%

(16)%

5.6%

8.9%

0.9pp

#### Key data 04 2015 FY 2015 (in € m) Net sales 777 759 2.4% Soda Ash & Derivatives 6.7% 382 358 3.0% Peroxides 136 132 Acetow 147 158 (7.2)% **Emerging Biochemicals** 112 111 1.2%

197

25%

### Q4 yoy net sales evolution (in $\in$ m)



### Q4 2015 performance

REBITDA

**REBITDA** margin

Net sales grew slightly by 2% to €777 m. Favorable foreign exchange movements and price increases, for 2% and 4% respectively, more than offset (2)% lower volumes. In Soda Ash & Derivatives, European and U.S. markets remained strong, but increased pressure from Chinese players affected volumes on the seaborne market. At Acetow, the destocking in the tow market persisted, but eased sequentially from a low point in the first half year. Peroxides net sales were largely flat with strong HPPO sales balancing a slower merchant market, while in Emerging Biochemicals higher volumes from PVC exports out of Thailand offset lower pricing.

**REBITDA** was € 197 m, a 4% increase from the same quarter in 2014. Positive pricing and forex effects more than offset the volume decrease. This was especially the case for Soda Ash & Derivatives and Acetow. All comprising GBUs saw results stable or up. The REBITDA margin remained largely stable at 25%.

### **FY yoy net sales evolution** (in $\in$ m)

3.090

1,554

558

542

437

789

26%

2.944

1,377

512

641

413

724

25%



### FY 2015 performance

3.6%

0.3pp

**Net sales** grew to  $\notin$  3,090 m, 5% up year on year, thanks to a 4% favorable impact of forex movements and a 3% overall price increase. This reflects the price increases in most GBUs, in particular at Soda Ash & Derivatives and Acetow. Volumes were overall (2)% lower, however, as the destocking in the acetate tow market persisted, although it improved in the second half of the vear from the low point in the first half. The total volume and mix effect in Soda Ash & Derivatives as well as Peroxides was largely stable versus 2014. Emerging Biochemicals was the exception as prices came down with lower raw material costs, albeit compensated by higher volumes.

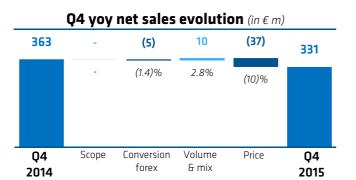
**REBITDA** totaled € 789 m, a 9% increase versus 2014, underpinned by strong pricing power across the segment and a positive conversion forex effect, which more than offset the volume decrease. Price increases in Soda Ash & Derivatives and to a lesser extent in Peroxides drove margins up in combination with pursued excellence measures. Acetow was supported by transactional forex effects. The REBITDA margin grew from 25% in 2014 to 26% in 2015, an increase of 0.9 pp.

### FUNCTIONAL POLYMERS

- Q4 REBITDA at € 22 m, up 47%, underpinned by volume growth for PA6.6 in Europe;
- Positive contribution from RusVinyl JV.



#### Key data 04 2015 FY 2015 (in € m) 04 2014 % yoy FY 2014 % yoy Net sales 331 363 (8.7)% 1.490 (9.9)% 1,654 Polyamide 1,448 322 356 (9.6)% 1,536 (5.7)% 117 Chlorovinyls 7 41 (65)% 9 37% REBITDA 22 15 47% 141 111 27% REBITDA margin 6.7% 4.1% 2.5pp 9.5% 6.7% 2.8pp



### Q4 2015 performance

Net sales fell (9)% to € 331 m mainly as a result of (10)% lower raw material prices in Solvay's PA6.6 upstream business, passed through to the customer. Volumes were up 3% with strong polyamide sales in Europe more than offsetting weaker performance in Asia, linked to a slowing automotive market, and the further deterioration of the Latin American yarn market. The (1)% conversion forex impact relates to Solvay's Brazilian realbased sales.

**REBITDA** came in at  $\notin 22 \text{ m}$ , an increase by 47%, reflecting the volume increase in the Polyamide business. Lower raw material and energy prices had no net effect on the REBITDA as the gain was largely transferred to customers through price reductions. On top of seasonal patterns, this explains the sequential drop, as the third quarter still benefited from a positive net pricing effect. The contribution from the RusVinyl joint venture to equity earnings was also well up. The plant is operating smoothly, to be compared with the start-up in 2014, and weaker Russian domestic sales were compensated by export. Consequently the REBITDA margin widened by 2.5 pp to 6.7%

### **FY** yoy net sales evolution (in $\in$ m)

#### 1,654 (75) 24 (2) (111) 1,490 (0.9)% (4.5)% 14% (6.7)% FY Scope Conversion Volume Price FY forex & mix 2014 2015

### FY 2015 performance

**Net sales** fell (10)% to  $\leq$  1,490 m. (4)% of the decrease is explained by a scope effect with the sale of the Benvic PVC compounding business in the second quarter of 2014. Lower raw material prices, mainly in Solvay's PA6.6 upstream business, impacted prices by (7)%, as these were passed through to the customer. Volumes were flat overall. Higher sales of PA6.6 polymers and intermediates, mostly in Europe, more than offset the significant decrease of yarn sales in the subdued Latin American market. Conversion forex effects were slightly positive at 1%.

**REBITDA** was € 141 m over the year, a 21% increase compared to 2014, despite production issues in its plant in Chalampé (France) and the inventory write-downs in the first quarter. The uplift was primarily the result of a strong positive net pricing reflecting the benefits of the excellence measures implemented in the PA6.6 upstream businesses, the advantage of lower raw materials prices in the more advanced polyamide engineering plastics activity, as well as positive transaction forex effects. The volume and mix impact was overall flat. The ramp-up of RusVinyl joint-venture in Russia also contributed positively to the operational result. The REBITDA margin went up 2.8 pp to reach 9.5% over the year.



Key data						
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% уоу	FY 2015	FY 2014	% уоу
REBITDA	(60)	(72)	17%	(189)	(188)	(0.5)%

### Q4 2015 performance

Net **REBITDA** costs of  $\in$  (60) m, were  $\in$  12 m better compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. Energy Services recorded a negative REBITDA of  $\in$  (2) m. Business conditions in the energy and carbon management services as well as investments in biomass-based energy plants proved more challenging in a low commodity price environment. Other Corporate & Business Services booked  $\in$  (58) m at REBITDA level, in line with the third quarter and  $\notin$  21 m better year on year. This is partially linked to cost phasing effects in 2014, which was back-end loaded, and continued excellence measures offsetting the adverse impact of exchange rates and inflation.

### FY 2015 performance

Net **REBITDA** costs were  $\in$  (189) m, in line with 2014. The contribution of Energy Services was  $\in$  (3) m,  $\in$  (28) m lower than in 2014, reflecting difficult conditions for investments in biomass-based energy plants as well as the energy and carbon management services in a low commodity price environment. Moreover a  $\in$  (7) m one-off impairment on outstanding carbon emission rights in Brazil, which are unlikely to be monetized, was booked in the third quarter. Other Corporate & Business Services booked  $\in$  (186) m, in line with the 2014 overall cost level, if one excludes the one-off benefit of  $\in$  30 m booked in the first quarter of 2015, linked to the evolution of the post-employment Medicare insurance policy in the U.S. This reflects continued excellence measures offsetting both the adverse impact of exchange rates and inflation.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FACTORS IMPACTING NET INCOME

Solvay has recorded a number of items that distort the comparability of the Group's underlying performance over time. Underlying net results adjusted for PPA and these items are deemed to provide a more complete and comparable indication of Solvay's fundamental performance over the reference periods.

### Underlying net income

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	% yoy	FY 2015	FY 2014	% yoy
IFRS net income, Solvay share	37	190	(80)%	406	80	n.m.
Rhodia PPA (after tax)	18	18	(1.2)%	71	75	(5.5)%
Adjusted net income, Solvay share	55	208	(74)%	477	156	n.m.
Non-recurring items	119	202	(41)%	245	308	(21)%
M&A related impacts (Chemlogics, Flux, Ryton)	15	12	28%	58	46	26%
Net financial charges (e.g. discount rate changes, debt management impacts)	9	6	49%	19	57	(67)%
Results on disposals (in discontinued operations)	-	(177)	n.m.	-	(177)	n.m.
Adjustments RusVinyl	(21)	48	n.m.	(5)	53	n.m.
Discontinued operations	106	7	n.m.	114	514	(78)%
Exceptional tax and tax related to adjustments	(146)	(127)	(14)%	(154)	(175)	12%
Non-controlling interests impact on adjustments	(10)	(55)	81%	(17)	(104)	84%
Other adjustments	72	(84)	n.m.	260	523	(50)%
Coupons on perpetual hybrid bonds <sup>[1]</sup>	(14)	(14)	-	(57)	(57)	-
Underlying net income, Solvay share	113	110	2.6%	680	622	9.4%

[1] Perpetual hybrid bonds are accounted for as equity under IFRS.

### CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated income statement of Q4 2015	Adju	sted	IFRS		
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	
Sales	2,674	2,694	2,674	2,694	
Revenues from non-core activities	132	120	132	120	
Net sales	2,542	2,574	2,542	2,574	
Cost of goods sold	(2,048)	(2,059)	(2,048)	(2,059)	
Gross margin	626	635	626	635	
Commercial & administrative costs	(343)	(336)	(343)	(336)	
Research & innovation costs	(73)	(66)	(73)	(66)	
Other operating gains & losses	3	-	(24)	(28)	
Earnings from associates & joint ventures	29	(43)	29	(43)	
Non-recurring items	(119)	(202)	(119)	(202)	
EBIT	123	(12)	96	(39)	
Cost of borrowings	(30)	(29)	(30)	(29)	
Interest on lendings & short-term deposits	3	3	3	3	
Other gains & losses on net indebtedness	(18)	(3)	(18)	(3)	
Cost of discounting provisions	(7)	(39)	(7)	(39)	
Loss from available-for-sale financial assets	(7)	-	(7)	-	
Result before taxes	63	(80)	36	(108)	
Income taxes	97	55	106	64	
Result from continuing operations	160	(25)	143	(43)	
Result from discontinued operations	(105)	183	(105)	183	
Net income	56	158	38	140	
Non-controlling interests	-	51	-	51	
Net income Solvay share	55	208	37	190	
Basic EPS from continuing operations (in €)	1.79	0.25	1.58	0.03	
Basic EPS (in €)	0.65	2.50	0.44	2.29	
Diluted EPS from continuing operations (in €)	1.78	0.25	1.57	0.03	
Diluted EPS (in €)	0.64	2.49	0.44	2.27	

Consolidated income statement of FY 2015	Adju	sted	IFRS		
(in € m)	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	
Sales	11,047	10,629	11,047	10,629	
Revenues from non-core activities	470	416	470	416	
Net sales	10,578	10,213	10,578	10,213	
Cost of goods sold	(8,289)	(8,070)	(8,289)	(8,070)	
Gross margin	2,759	2,559	2,759	2,559	
Commercial & administrative costs	(1,327)	(1,225)	(1,327)	(1,225)	
Research & innovation costs	(277)	(247)	(277)	(247)	
Other operating gains & losses	10	16	(99)	(94)	
Earnings from associates & joint ventures	21	(34)	21	(34)	
Non-recurring items	(245)	(308)	(245)	(308)	
EBIT	941	761	833	652	
Cost of borrowings	(111)	(151)	(111)	(151)	
Interest on lendings & short-term deposits	11	36	11	36	
Other gains & losses on net indebtedness	(46)	(30)	(46)	(30)	
Cost of discounting provisions	(73)	(163)	(73)	(163)	
Loss from available-for-sale financial assets	(8)	(1)	(8)	(1)	
Result before taxes	715	453	606	343	
Income taxes	(135)	(120)	(97)	(84)	
Result from continuing operations	580	333	509	259	
Result from discontinued operations	(55)	(244)	(55)	(246)	
Net income	525	89	454	13	
Non-controlling interests	(48)	67	(48)	67	
Net income Solvay share	477	156	406	80	
Basic EPS from continuing operations (in €)	6.42	4.21	5.57	3.32	
Basic EPS (in €)	5.70	1.87	4.85	0.96	
Diluted EPS from continuing operations (in €)	6.38	4.18	5.53	3.30	
Diluted EPS (in €)	5.66	1.86	4.81	0.96	

### **Reconciliation between IFRS & adjusted data**

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
EBIT (IFRS)	96	(39)	833	652
Non-recurring items (-)	119	202	245	308
Amortization of Rhodia PPA on fixed assets	27	27	109	110
IFRS depreciation & amortization (recurring) excluding Rhodia PPA	199	168	733	641
Adjustments of Chemlogics and Ryton inventories at Fair Value (PPA) & holdback payments	4	2	13	11
RusVinyl adjustments (in equity earnings)	(16)	58	22	65
Other adjustments	-	(5)	-	(5)
REBITDA (key performance indicator monitored by management)	429	414	1,955	1,783

The quarterly net adjustment related to RusVinyl eliminates the financial impact resulting from interest on debt and foreign exchange volatility, which in the aggregate amounts to  $\in$  23 m, and the adjustment of  $\in$  (39) m recognized in the fourth quarter of 2015 to reflect the reassessed recoverable amount of the investment. The year-to-date net adjustment eliminates the financial impact resulting from interest on debt and foreign exchange volatility, which in the aggregate amounts to  $\in$  41 m and the net adjustment of  $\in$  (19) m recognized in 2015 to reflect the reassessed recoverable amount of the investment.

#### Consolidated statement of comprehensive income

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
Net income	38	140	454	13
Other comprehensive income				
Recyclable components				
Hyperinflation	21	2	42	(11)
Gains and losses on available-for-sale financial assets	(1)	1	3	1
Gains and losses on hedging instruments in a cash flow hedge	37	(21)	15	(60)
Currency translation differences	83	(39)	186	23
Non-recyclable components				
Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability	(6)	(166)	279	(497)
Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income	(2)	24	(20)	72
Other comprehensive income, net of related tax effects	133	(199)	505	(264)
Total comprehensive income	171	(59)	959	(251)
attributed to Solvay share	164	25	892	(167)
attributed to non-controlling interests	6	(84)	67	(84)

Consolidated statement of financial position (IFRS)	24 /42 /2045	21/12/2014
in € m)		31/12/2014
Non-current assets	18,716	11,529
Intangible assets	3,919	1,543
Goodwill	5,840	3,15
Tangible assets	6,946	5,386
Available-for-sale financial assets	34	43
Investments in joint ventures and associates	398	380
Other investments	92	12
Deferred tax assets	1,059	710
Loans & other non-current assets	427	19
Current assets	6,613	6,36
Inventories	1,867	1,42
Trade receivables	1,615	1,41
Income tax receivables	158	5
Other current receivables – Financial instruments	111	30
Other current receivables – Other	655	50
Cash and cash equivalents	2,030	1,25
Assets held for sale	177	1,41
Total assets	25,329	17,89
Total equity	9,668	6,77
Share capital	1,588	1,27
Reserves	7,835	5,29
Non-controlling interests	245	21
Non-current liabilities	11,330	6,08
Long-term provisions: employee benefits	3,133	3,16
Other long-term provisions	831	85
Deferred tax liabilities	1,456	37
Long-term financial debt	5,628	1,48
Other non-current liabilities	282	20
Current liabilities	4,331	5,02
Other short-term provisions	310	30
Short-term financial debt	892	85
Trade liabilities	1.559	1,46
Income tax payable	130	35
Dividends payable	144	11
Other current liabilities	1,021	77
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale	275	1,16

Consolidated statement of	change	es in e	quity (	(IFRS)			rese	uation erve value)				
(in € m)	Share capital	Share premiums	Treasury shares	Perpetual hybrid bonds	Retained earnings	Currency translation differences	Available-for-sale financial assets	Cash flow hedges	Defined benefit pension plans	Total reserves	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
Balance at 31/12/2013	1,271	18	(132)	1,194	5,983	(768)	(6)	6	(494)	5,804	378	7,453
Net income for the period	-	-	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	80	(67)	13
Items of OCI	1	-	-	-	(9)	241	1	(49)	(433)	(249)	(17)	(266)
Comprehensive income	1	-	-	-	71	241	1	(49)	(433)	(169)	(84)	(252)
Cost of stock options	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
Dividends	-	-	-	-	(266)	-	-	-	-	(266)	(26)	(292)
Coupons of perpetual hybrid bonds	-	-	-	-	(42)	-	-	-	-	(42)	-	(42)
Sale (acquisition) of treasury	-	-	(39)	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(41)	-	(41)
Increase (decrease) through changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries that do not result in loss of control	-	-	-	-	(7)	-	-	-	-	(7)	(54)	(61)
Balance at 31/12/2014	1,271	18	(171)	1,194	5,753	(527)	(4)	(43)	(927)	5,293	214	6,778
Net income for the period	-	-	-	-	368	-	-	-	-	368	48	416
ltems of OCI	-	-	-	-	20	93	4	(17)	260	359	13	372
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	388	93	4	(17)	260	728	60	788
Cost of stock options	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
Dividends	-	-	-	-	(171)	-	-	-	-	(171)	(7)	(178)
Coupons of perpetual hybrid bonds	-	-	-	-	(29)	-	-	-	-	(29)	-	(29)
Sale (acquisition) of treasury shares	-	-	(59)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(59)	-	(59)
Increase (decrease) through changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries that do not result in loss of control	-	-	-	-	(115)	1	-	(1)	32	(83)	2	(81)
Balance at 30/09/2015	1,271	18	(231)	1,194	5,834	(434)	-	(61)	(635)	5,686	271	7,227
Net income for the period	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	37	-	38
Items of OCI	-	-	-	-	15	77	(1)	32	4	127	6	133
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	53	77	(1)	32	4	164	6	171
Capital increase	318	1,151	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,151	-	1,469
Perpetual hybrid bond issuance	-	-	-	994	-	-	-	-	-	994	-	994
Cost of stock options	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Dividends	-	-	-	-	(142)	-	-	-	-	(142)	(34)	(176)
Coupons of perpetual hybrid bonds	-	-	-	-	(27)	-	-	-	-	(27)	-	(27)
Sale (acquisition) of treasury shares	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Increase (decrease) through changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries that do not result in loss of control	-	-	-	-	(3)	5	-	-	-	1	2	4
Balance at 31/12/2015	1,588	1,170	(230)	2,188	5,720	(353)	(2)	(28)	(630)	7,835	245	9,668

n € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
Net income	38	140	454	
Depreciation, amortization & impairments (-)	296	332	978	1,4
Earnings from associates & joint ventures (-)	(29)	43	(21)	
Net financial charges & result from available-for-sale financial assets (-)	62	86	257	3
Income tax expense (-)	(105)	115	134	Э
Changes in working capital	390	610	(99)	2
Changes in provisions	(152)	(59)	(302)	(2
Dividends received from associates & joint ventures	-	6	14	
Income taxes paid (excluding income taxes paid on sale of subsidiaries & investments)	(54)	(59)	(250)	(2
Other non-operating and non-cash items	196	(346)	223	(3
Cash flow from operating activities	642	869	1,388	1,6
Acquisition (-) of subsidiaries	(4,886)	(213)	(4,934)	(30
Acquisition (-) of investments - Other	(16)	(15)	(28)	(1
Loans to associates and non-consolidated companies	16	(5)	11	
Sale (+) of subsidiaries and investments	32	721	70	
Income taxes paid (-) on sale of subsidiaries and investments	-	-	(232)	
Acquisition (-) of tangible assets	(276)	(332)	(952)	(9
Acquisition (-) of intangible assets	(29)	(23)	(85)	()
Sale (+) of tangible & intangible assets	8	8	31	
Dividends from available-for-sale financial assets	1	-	1	
Changes in non-current financial assets	29	21	4	
Cash flow from investing activities	(5,119)	161	(6,113)	(6
Capital increase (+) / redemption (-)	1,477	1	1,477	
Proceeds from perpetual hybrid bond issuance	990	-	990	
Sale (acquisition) of treasury shares	-	(33)	(59)	(4
Increase in borrowings	3,664	-	4,628	
Repayment of borrowings	(620)	(240)	(1,219)	(1,3
Changes in other current financial assets	(6)	(357)	225	
Interests paid	(14)	(10)	(156)	(2
Coupons paid on perpetual hybrid bond	(27)	(26)	(57)	(
Dividends paid	(34)	(20)	(323)	(2
Other	-	(1)	(31)	
Cash flow from financing activities	5,430	(688)	5,475	(1,69
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	953	341	750	(7
Currency translation differences	(52)	17	12	
Opening cash balance	1,136	917	1,275	1,9
losing cash balance <sup>[1]</sup>	2,037	1,275	2,037	1,2

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
Free cash flow	376	542	387	656
From continuing operations	369	480	391	511
From discontinued operations	8	62	(3)	145

[1] Including cash in assets held for sale:  $\in$  7 m at the end of 2015, versus  $\in$  24 m at the end of 2014.

## Statement of cash flow from discontinued operations (IFRS)

(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
Cash flow from operating activities	15	100	64	272
Cash flow from investing activities	(7)	(38)	(68)	(127)
Cash flow from financing activities	(7)	(6)	(33)	(21)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	1	56	(36)	124

### Additional comments on the cash flow statement of the 4th quarter 2015

Cash flow from operating activities was € 642 m compared to € 869 m last year. Besides net income of € 38 m, it consisted of:

- Depreciation, amortization and non-cash impairments that totaled € 296 m;
- Change in working capital that amounted to € 390 m, of which continuing operations represented € 341 m and industrial working capital from continuing operations represented € 285 m.

Cash flow from investing activities was  $\in$  (5,119) m, and included the cash-out from the acquisition of Cytec for  $\in$  (4,884) m, as well as capital expenditures of  $\in$  (304) m, including  $\in$  (8) m in discontinued operations.

### Additional comments on the cash flow statement of the full year 2015

Cash flow from operating activities was € 1,388 m compared to € 1,621 m last year. Besides net income of € 454 m, it consisted of:

- Depreciation, amortization and non-cash impairments that totaled € 978 m;
- Change in working capital that amounted to € (99) m, of which continuing operations represented € (49) m, totally attributable to industrial working capital.

Cash flow from investing activities was  $\in$  (6,113) m, and included the cash-out from the acquisition of Cytec for  $\in$  (4,901) m, as well as capital expenditures of  $\in$  (1,037) m, including  $\in$  (68) m in discontinued operations.

### NOTES TO THE IFRS ACCOUNTS

### 1. General information

Solvay is a public limited liability company governed by Belgian law and quoted on Euronext Brussels and Euronext Paris. These consolidated interim financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on February 24, 2016.

### 2. Accounting policies

Solvay prepares its consolidated interim financial statements on a quarterly basis, in accordance with IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*. They do not include all the information required for the preparation of the annual consolidated financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The consolidated interim financial statements for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 were prepared using the same accounting policies as those adopted for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014, except for the adoption of IFRIC 21 *Levies*, which does not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

### 3. Business combination: Cytec Industries Inc.

### a) General

On July 29, 2015, Solvay SA entered into a definitive merger agreement with U.S.-based Cytec Industries Inc. to acquire 100% of its share capital and of the voting rights, for US\$ 75.25 per share in cash, subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals and Cytec's shareholders' approval. Following those approvals, the closing of the acquisition took place on December 9, 2015.

Cytec is among the world leaders in composite materials and in mining chemicals, recognized by its customers as a consistently successful innovator and provider of high-performance and value-added solutions. In the fast-growing composite materials sector, which represents two thirds of its sales, its principal market is primary and secondary structures for aircrafts. It is also developing new technological applications for composites in automotive. Cytec is the leader in tailored specialty chemical formulations to enhance mining separation processes.

Through the acquisition of Cytec, Solvay will gain critical scale and immediate customer intimacy in aerospace. In the automotive market, Solvay's strong positions with original equipment manufacturers and tier-one suppliers will help bolster Cytec's growth.

Moreover, Cytec will significantly reinforce Solvay's sustainability profile as its offerings are addressing planet's challenges. With Cytec, Solvay will stand out stronger in reducing  $CO_2$  emissions through its lightweight solutions and in dealing with the increasing scarcity of resources through more efficient and cleaner mining technologies.

#### b) Purchase consideration and acquisition-related expenses

The total consideration for the acquisition amounted to  $\in$  5,047 m, and was based on the following:

- 1) The outstanding number of Cytec shares (other than those shares held by Cytec as treasury stock) as of December 9, 2015, namely 71,568,528, multiplied by the share price of US\$ 75.25 that Solvay agreed to pay in cash pursuant to the Merger Agreement entered into between Solvay SA and Cytec Industries Inc. on July 28, 2015, equaling US\$ 5,385 m (€ 4,947 m).
- 2) The fair value of Cytec's outstanding share-based payment transactions that have been cancelled and converted into a right to receive cash on the acquisition date. This was included in the consideration in accordance with IFRS 3 Business Combinations for an amount of US\$ 193 m (€ 177 m).
- 3) In addition, on July 29, 2015, Solvay entered into a foreign exchange forward contract to hedge US\$ 1,880 m of the expected purchase price, contingent upon the realization of the acquisition. The effect of this hedging contract was a €77 m decrease of the consideration, which has been deducted from goodwill as a basis adjustment.

The acquisition-related expenses amounting to  $\in$  130 m have been recognized as a non-recurring expense in 2015.

Non-recurring expenses on the Cytec acquisition	
in € m	FY 2015
Financial & brokerage advice	(36)
Legal advice	(8)
Accounting advice	(4)
Professional services	(48)
Financing & hedging arrangements	(54)
Restructuring charges	(19)
Other costs & expenses	(10)
Total	(130)

The total cash-out amounts to  $\in$  5,099 m in 2015, of which  $\in$  5,082 m in the fourth quarter and  $\in$  17 m in the third quarter.

- Out of the total consideration of € 5,047 m, € 4,998 m was paid in the fourth quarter of 2015;
- Out of the total acquisition related-expenses of € 130 m, € 101 m was paid in 2015: € 84 m in the fourth quarter and € 17 m in the third.

Taking into account the cash acquired from Cytec ( $\leq$  198 m), which is deducted from the acquisition cash out,  $\leq$  4,901 m has been paid in 2015. The balance is to be paid over the next years.

### c) Funding

Solvay raised  $\in$  6,2 bn to finance the acquisition (as detailed below), of which more than  $\in$  1 bn was raised to anticipate refinancing needs.

### **Funding of Cytec acquisition**

n € m)	Gross amount	Total amount paid in 2015	Financing cash flow 2015
Total net amount funded [ a ]	6,220	(59)	6,16
USD bonds (\$ 1.6 bn)	1,470	(7)	1,463
EUR bonds	2,250	(20)	2,230
Perpetual hybrid bonds	1,000	(9)	99 <sup>.</sup>
Capital increase	1,500	(23)	1,472
Total cash out for Cytec acquisition [ b ]			(5,099
cess cash available for refinancing in 2016 [ a-b ]			1,062

Solvay also acquired Cytec's gross debt of  $\notin$  730 m at December 31, 2015. With the cash acquired of  $\notin$  198 m, this corresponds to a net debt of  $\notin$  (532) m.

### d) Purchase price allocation

Cytec opening balance sheet has been fully consolidated within the Solvay Group as from December 31, 2015. Accordingly, a provisional valuation of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed has been made as at December 31, 2015. The following table summarizes:

- The consideration for Cytec of € 5,047 m;
- The identifiable assets acquired less liabilities assumed after remeasurement to fair value at acquisition date of € 2,449 m; and
- The goodwill of € 2,598 m, corresponding to the difference between the consideration and the net assets acquired, measured at fair value.

Purchase price allocation of Cytec (PPA)			
(in € m)	Purchase consideration	Fair values	Fair value adjustments [1]
Purchase consideration	5,047		
Net assets acquired at fair value		2,449	
Non-current assets		4,076	2,385
Intangible assets		2,451	2,283
Tangible assets		1,136	102
Investments in associates		11	-
Other investments		7	-
Deferred tax assets		447	-
Loans & other non-current assets		24	-
Current assets		926	83
Inventories		380	83
Trade receivables		233	-
Income tax receivables		57	-
Other current receivables		58	-
Cash and cash equivalents		198	-
Total assets		5,002	2,468
Non-current liabilities		2,189	758
Long-term provisions: employee benefits		215	-
Other long-term provisions		81	7
Deferred tax liabilities		1,182	768
Long-term financial debt		664	(17)
Other non-current liabilities		47	-
Current liabilities		364	-
Other short-term provisions		37	-
Short-term financial debt		65	-
Trade liabilities		156	-
Income tax payable		8	-
Other current liabilities		98	-
Total liabilities		2,553	758
Goodwill		2,598	

[1] Fair value adjustments to the IFRS carrying amounts of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

The provisional adjustment to fair value of  $\notin$  2,283 m of intangible assets has resulted in the recognition of acquired customer relationships for a total of  $\notin$  1,721 m and acquired technologies for  $\notin$  730 m. Tangible assets have been remeasured to fair value for  $\notin$  102 m. Inventories have been remeasured to fair value for  $\notin$  83 m. Assets were fair valued with the assistance of an external independent expert.

The fair value of the trade receivables acquired approximates their gross contractual amounts. Contingent liabilities in connection with environmental risks have been recognized for  $\notin$  7 m.

A net deferred tax liability of  $\notin$  768 m on the above adjustments to fair value has been determined based on the statutory tax rates when the asset or liability could be allocated to a specific legal entity and on a normalized effective tax rate of 30.8% otherwise.

During a 12-month measurement period, the fair values of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed will be further refined, however management does not expect any significant adjustments to the values recognized at December 31, 2015.

The resulting provisional goodwill of  $\notin$  2,598 m arises mainly from business opportunities in advanced light-weight materials for the aerospace and automotive industries and in specialty chemicals for mining, synergies (estimated at a minimum of  $\notin$  100 m in annual synergies within three years after the acquisition), as well as skilled work force. These benefits have not been recognized separately from goodwill because they do not meet the definition of identifiable intangible assets.

The goodwill is not expected to be deductible for income tax purposes.

### 4. Unaudited pro forma information for full year 2015

The information included in this section has not been audited by Solvay's external auditors.

Cytec's results and cash flows for the period between December 9 and December 31 are not material, except for non-recurring charges. Consequently, Cytec has not contributed to the Group's IFRS net income or cash flows in 2015.

In order to provide a reference framework for evaluating the Group's performance going forward, Solvay publishes unaudited pro forma information for the year 2015. The figures represent a situation as if the Cytec acquisition had taken place on January 1, 2015. The detailed basis for preparation in the subsequent pages are an integral part of the pro forma information.

Three sets of consolidated income statements are presented within this report: "IFRS", "Adjusted" and "Underlying".

From the first quarter of 2016, the Group's results will be presented on an IFRS and Underlying basis only (cf. glossary on page 35). The current definition of REBITDA will equate to Underlying EBITDA going forward.

Had Cytec been consolidated as from January 1, 2015, the Group's pro forma consolidated income statement for 2015 would have been as follows:

Pro forma income statement FY 2015	Solvay stand-alone + Cytec stand-alone				+ Funding =	Pro forma combination						
		РРА			РРА		Cytec		РРА		Other ad- justments & hybrid	Under-
(in € m)	IFRS	impact	Adjusted	IFRS	impact	Adjusted		IFRS	impact	Adjusted	coupons	lying
Sales	11,047	-	11,047	1,800	-	1,800	-	12,847	-	12,847	-	12,847
Revenues from non-core activities	470	-	470	-	-	-	-	470	-	470	-	470
Net sales [ a ]	10,578	-	10,578	1,800	-	1,800	-	12,378	-	12,378	-	12,378
Cost of goods sold	(8,289)	-	(8,289)	(1,317)	82	(1,236)	-	(9,606)	82	(9,524)	1	(9,523)
Gross margin	2,759	-	2,759	482	82	564	-	3,241	82	3,323	1	3,324
Commercial & administrative costs	(1,327)	-	(1,327)	(221)	-	(221)	-	(1,548)	-	(1,548)	57	(1,491)
Research & innovation costs	(277)	-	(277)	(47)	-	(47)	-	(324)	-	(324)	-	(324)
Other operating gains & losses	(99)	109	10	(144)	131	(13)	-	(242)	240	(2)	-	(2)
Earnings from associates & joint ventures [ b ]	21	-	21	-	-	-	-	21	-	21	22	43
REBITDA [ c = g-d-e-f ]			1,955			381	-			2,336	-	2,336
REBITDA margin [ c/a ]			18%			21%				19%		19%
Depreciation & Amortization (recurring) [ d ]	(842)	109	(733)	(311)	213	(98)	-	(1,153)	322	(831)	45	(786)
Other REBITDA adjustment elements [ e ]			(35)			-	-			(35)	35	-
Non-recurring items [ f ]	(245)	-	(245)	(11)	-	(11)	-	(256)	-	(256)	256	-
EBIT [g]	833	109	941	59	213	272		892	322	1,213	337	1,550
Financial expenses	(146)	-	(146)	(23)	-	(23)	(66)	(235)	-	(235)	25	(210)
Coupons on perpetual hybrid bonds <sup>[1]</sup>											(112)	(112)
Interests and realized foreign exchange losses on RusVinyl (joint venture) [ h ]											(27)	(27)
Cost of discounting provisions	(73)	-	(73)	(8)	-	(8)	-	(81)	-	(81)	(14)	(95)
Loss from available-for-sale financial assets	(8)	-	(8)	-	-	-	-	(8)	-	(8)	8	-
Result before taxes [ i ]	606	109	715	27	213	240	(66)	568	322	889	216	1,105
Income taxes [ j ]	(97)	(38)	(135)	(3)	(66)	(69)	37	(63)	(103)	(166)	(165)	(331)
Tax rate [j/(i-b-h)]	17%		19%	12%		29%		12%		19%		30%
Result from continuing operations	509	71	580	24	147	171	(29)	504	218	723	52	774
Result from discontinued operations	(55)	-	(55)	(2)	-	(2)	-	(56)	-	(56)	115	59
Net income	454	71	525	23	147	170	(29)	448	218	666	167	833
Non-controlling interests	(48)	-	(48)	-	-	-	-	(48)	-	(48)	(17)	(65)
Net income Solvay share	406	71	477	23	147	170	(29)	400	218	618	150	768
Basic EPS from continuing operations (in €)	5.57	0.85	6.42					4.45	2.10	6.55	0.43	6.98
Basic EPS (in €)	4.85	0.85	5.70					3.85	2.10	5.96	1.44	7.40
Diluted EPS from continuing operations (in €)	5.53	0.85	6.38					4.42	2.09	6.51	0.42	6.93
Diluted EPS (in €)	4.81	0.85	5.66					3.83	2.09	5.92	1.43	7.35

[1] These perpetual hybrid bonds are classified as equity under IFRS.

#### a) Basis for preparation of the IFRS PRO FORMA statements

The pro forma financial information combines Solvay's consolidated income statement with Cytec's consolidated income statement, both determined on a stand-alone basis, after alignment of accounting policies and purchase price allocation impacts (i.e. depreciation of tangible and amortization of intangible fair value step-ups and recognition in cost of goods sold of the inventory fair value step-up). The pro forma information also takes into account the estimated additional funding costs related to the acquisition.

- The additional interest expense on an IFRS basis is estimated to be € (66) m and takes into account:
  - → The annual IFRS interest expense of  $\in$  (104) m on the  $\in$  bonds of  $\in$  (2.25) bn and on the US bonds of US\$ (1.6) bn;
  - → A reduced interest expense by  $\in$  30 m on the  $\in$  1,062 m excess cash raised for existing debt refinancing;
  - → Of the net interest expense of € (74) m, € (66) m are taken into account as additional funding expenses in the pro forma accounts, while € (8) m are already included in the Solvay stand-alone financial expenses for 2015 for the period the financing was in place at year end;
  - → The coupons on the € (1.0) bn perpetual hybrid debt are not taken into account, as these bonds are considered as equity according to IFRS. This is however corrected in underlying results.
- The debt capacity in the United States generates a tax credit of € 37 m on interest expense on the € (66) m Cytec funding expenses.
- Acquisition costs incurred directly by Cytec are already reflected in the 2015 Solvay stand-alone consolidated income statement in non-recurring items which total € (130) m.
- Announced synergies have not been reflected in the 2015 pro forma statements.

#### b) Basis for preparation of ADJUSTED statements

Besides IFRS accounts, Solvay also presents Adjusted Income Statement performance indicators that exclude non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia acquisition, and now also to the Cytec acquisition.

- Solvay IFRS statements include the non-cash purchase price allocation (PPA) amortization charges relative to the Rhodia PPA for a total amount of € 109 m in 2015. The related tax impact over this period amounted to € (38) m.
- IFRS PPA adjustments for Cytec stand-alone refer to the Cytec purchase price allocation (see Note 1 *Business combination: Cytec Industries Inc.* on page 25), including € 82 m of inventory step-ups and € 131 m of intangible assets amortization charges. These combined total € 213 m with an associated tax impact of € (66) m.

#### c) Basis for preparation of UNDERLYING statements

"Underlying" figures aim at adjusting IFRS statements for the non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia and Cytec acquisition, for the coupons of hybrid perpetual bonds, classified as equity under IFRS and for other adjustments that distort the comparability of the Group's underlying performance. Underlying results are deemed to provide a more comparable indication of Solvay's fundamental performance over the reference periods.

The column "other adjustments and hybrid coupons" shows a total correction of  $\leq 167$  m, of which  $\leq (112)$  m for coupons of hybrid perpetual bonds (including  $\leq (55)$  m for the Cytec acquisition.) and  $\leq 279$  m for other adjustments. These other adjustments comprise:

- M&A related impacts of other acquisitions (Chemlogics, Flux, Ryton, ...) for € 58 m, of which € 57 m in commercial & administrative costs and € 1 m in costs of goods sold;
- Non-recurring items of € 245 m for Solvay stand-alone and € 11 m for Cytec stand-alone, totaling € 256 m;
- Impact of hyperinflation in Venezuela for € 25 m;
- Impacts of changes in discount rate on environmental provision for € (14) m;
- Impairment on available-for-sale financial assets for € 8 m;
- Tax impacts of the above other adjustments for € (51) m, as well as net income tax benefits related to previous years for € (114) m of which € (107) m for Solvay and € (7) m for Cytec, which combined give total tax on other adjustments of € (165) m;
- A € 22 m net impact on the RusVinyl joint venture related to the total finance expenses and impairments were excluded from REBITDA, while € (27) m were reclassified as underlying finance expenses concerning interests and realized foreign exchange losses on EUR-denominated debt.
- An overall net impact on discontinued operations of € 115 m included
  - An impairment and other expenses related to Solvay Indupa for € 96 m;
  - Post-closing costs related to the Pharma activities divested in 2010 for € 25 m;
  - Positive price adjustments related to the disposal of Eco Services for € (7) m.
- The impact on non-controlling interests of these other adjustments items totaled  $\in$  (17) m.

#### d) Pro forma free cash flow 2015

The pro forma Free Cash Flow would have amounted to  $\notin$  492 million, of which  $\notin$  105 million for Cytec stand-alone. The pro forma Free Cash Flow from continuing operations would have amounted to  $\notin$  500 million, of which  $\notin$  109 million for Cytec stand-alone.

Pro forma capital expenditures would have amounted to  $\notin$  1,160 million, of which  $\notin$  123 million for Cytec stand-alone. Pro forma capital expenditures from continuing operations would have amounted to  $\notin$  1,092 million, of which  $\notin$  123 million for Cytec stand-alone.

### 5. Other changes of consolidation scope

On April 15, 2015 Solvay has completed the acquisition of ERCA Emery Surfactant B.V. alkoxylation asset, a facility jointly owned by Emery Oleochemicals and ERCA Group in the Moerdijk integrated industrial park in the Netherlands, strengthening its strategy of securing sustainable, large-scale surfactant assets worldwide.

On June 9, 2015, Solvay and INEOS received final approval from the European Commission to form their 50/50 chlorovinyls joint venture INOVYN. This follows Commission approval of International Chemical Investors Group's (ICIG) acquisition of the remedy business that is being divested by INEOS as a condition of clearance.

On July 1, Solvay and INEOS created their joint venture INOVYN, which explains the decrease of assets held for sale and liabilities associated to assets held for sale in the consolidated statement of financial position.

The finalized terms of the joint venture agreement remain materially unchanged from those announced in June 2014. Solvay received upon closing an upfront cash payment of  $\leq$  150 m – subject to customary adjustments such as actual working capital levels. In addition to contributing their entire European chlorovinyls business, Solvay has transferred liabilities estimated at  $\leq$  260 m into the joint venture. Three years after the creation of the joint venture, Solvay will exit INOVYN and receive an additional, performance-based payment targeted to be  $\leq$  280 m, with a minimum of  $\leq$  95 m. Thereafter, INEOS will be the sole owner of the business.

Also effective July 1, Solvay acquired BASF's 25% stake in its PVC joint venture SolVin, which decreased equity by € 84 m. In addition, Solvay and INOVYN have agreed to continue supplying basic chemicals to the BASF site in Antwerp.

On November 5, 2015, Solvay acquired EPIC Polymers long-fiber thermoplastics (LFT) technology to complement its offering of high performance lightweight materials and gain access to metal replacement of larger automotive semi-structural parts.

### 6. Segment information

Since January 1, 2013, Solvay is organized into five Operating Segments.

- Advanced Formulations serves the consumer products markets. Its growing product offering is directed at societal megatrends: demographic growth, the increasing purchasing power of emerging markets, the appearance of new modes of consumption, and a demand for safer, more sustainable products and renewable materials-based solutions.
- Advanced Materials offers ultra-high-performance applications for aerospace, high-speed trains, health, low-energy tires, automotive emission control, smart devices and hybrid vehicle batteries.
- Performance Chemicals operates in mature and resilient markets, where success is based on economies of scale, competitiveness
  and quality of service.
- Functional Polymers include polyamide based solutions serving mainly the automotive, construction, electrical/electronic and different consumer good markets.
- Corporate & Business Services includes the Energy Services GBU and Corporate Functions such as Business Services and the Research & Innovation Center. Energy Services' mission is to optimize energy consumption and reduce emissions.

As of January 1, 2016, following the acquisition of Cytec, Solvay has re-organized its segment set-up to enhance strategic coherence and improve alignment. Cytec's former "Aerospace Materials" and "Industrial Materials" activities are included in Advanced Materials, while its "In Process Separation" and "Additive Technologies" activities in Advanced Formulations. Solvay's GBU Coatis is transferred to Performance Chemicals and the GBU Emerging Biochemicals is moved to Functional Polymers.

Reconciliation of segment data				
(in € m)	Q4 2015	Q4 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014
Net sales	2,542	2,574	10,578	10,213
Advanced Formulations	615	731	2,652	2,854
Advanced Materials	812	721	3,334	2,762
Performance Chemicals	777	759	3,090	2,944
Functional Polymers	331	363	1,490	1,654
Corporate & Business Services	6	-	11	-
REBITDA	429	414	1,955	1,783
Advanced Formulations	84	109	378	426
Advanced Materials	186	172	836	709
Performance Chemicals	197	190	789	724
Functional Polymers	22	15	141	111
Corporate & Business Services	(60)	(72)	(189)	(188)
IFRS depreciation & amortization (recurring) excluding Rhodia PPA	(199)	(168)	(733)	(641)
Adjustments of Chemlogics and Ryton inventories at Fair Value (PPA) & holdback payments	(4)	(2)	(13)	(11)
RusVinyl adjustments (in equity earnings)	16	(58)	(22)	(65)
Other adjustments	-	5	-	5
Amortization of Rhodia PPA on fixed assets	(27)	(27)	(109)	(110)
Non-recurring items (-)	(119)	(202)	(245)	(308)
EBIT	96	(39)	833	652
Net financial charges	(59)	(68)	(226)	(309)
Result before taxes	36	(108)	606	343
Income taxes	106	64	(97)	(84)
Result from continuing operations	143	(43)	509	259
Result from discontinued operations	(105)	183	(55)	(246)
Net income	38	140	454	13

### 7. Share based payments

On February 25, 2015 the Board of Directors of Solvay SA decided to grant two long-term incentive plans for part of its key executives:

- a stock option plan (SO) which will allow the acquisition of shares in Solvay; and
- a Performance Share Units (PSU) plan which will allow the beneficiaries to obtain cash based upon the Solvay share price.

### a) Stock option plan

The details of the stock options plan are as follows:

### Stock option plan

•••••• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Number of stock options	349,108
Grant date	25/03/2015
Vesting date	01/01/2019
Vesting period	25/03/2015 to 31/12/2018
Exercise price (in €)	114.51
Exercise period	01/01/2019 to 24/02/2023

This plan is an equity settled share-based plan. As of December 31, 2015, the impact on the income statement and statement of financial position amounts to  $\leq 2$  m. In the fourth quarter of 2015, to compensate the dilution impact of the capital increase, an adjustment was made to the stock option plans. The impact of such has been reflected in the table above and did not impact the Group's profit or loss.

### b) Performance Share Units Plan

The details of the performance share units plan are as follows:

Performance share units	
Number of PSU	184,352
Grant date	25/03/2015
Vesting date	01/01/2018
Vesting period	31/3/2015 to 31/12/2017
Performance conditions	50% of the initial granted PSU are subject to the REBITDA yoy growth % over 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017); 50% of the initial granted PSU are subject to the yoy CFROI % variation over 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017)
Validation of performance conditions	By the board of Directors, subject to confirmation by Solvay Statutory Auditors

The performance share units plan is a cash-settled share-based plan. As of December 31, 2015, the impact on the income statement and statement of financial position amounts to  $\in$  8 m. In the fourth quarter of 2015, to compensate the dilution impact of the capital increase, an adjustment was made to the performance share units plans. The impact of such did not impact the Group's profit or loss.

### 8. Financial Instruments

#### a) Valuation techniques

Compared to December 31, 2014, there are no changes in valuation techniques.

#### b) Fair value of financial instruments measured at amortized cost

For all financial instruments not measured at fair value in Solvay's statement of financial position, the fair value of those financial instruments as of December 31, 2015 is not significantly different from the ones published in Note 37 of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

#### c) Financial instruments measured at fair value

In connection with the Cytec acquisition, Solvay has contracted a foreign currency derivative financial instrument, hedging a portion of the US dollar acquisition cost against euro. Contractually, no settlement was due in case the Cytec acquisition would not have closed. The corresponding contingency settlement premium amounts to  $\leq$  33 m and has been recognized as a finance expense. As the transaction was deemed highly probable by management, its probability of occurrence, a level 3 input, had an insignificant impact on the fair value of the hedging instrument, of which the fair value was otherwise based on level 2 inputs. Following the settlement of the currency hedge, the purchase consideration of Cytec decreased by  $\leq$  77 m, which have been deducted from goodwill as a basis adjustment.

Solvay's exit from INOVYN against receipt of an additional, performance-based payment qualifies as a derivative financial instrument, of which the fair value amounts to  $\leq$  244 m at December 31, 2015. Its fair value is largely based on level 3 inputs, namely REBITDA multiples, comparing the expected exit price against the fair value of Solvay's 50% equity share held in INOVYN. Any future changes of estimates of REBITDA multiples will impact the fair value of the derivative financial instrument. A decrease of REBITDA by 10% decreases the fair value of the derivative financial instrument by  $\leq$  39 million. An increase of REBITDA by 10% increases the fair value of the derivative financial instrument by  $\leq$  54 million. A decrease of the discount rate by 10% increases/decreases the fair value of the derivative financial instrument by  $\leq$  6 million.

For other financial instruments measured at fair value in Solvay's statement of financial position, the fair value of those instruments as of December 31, 2015 is not significantly different from the ones as published in the Note 37 of the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

During the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, there were neither reclassification between fair value levels, nor significant changes in the fair value of financial assets and liabilities measured based on level 3 inputs, except as mentioned above.

### 9. Declaration by responsible persons

Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, Chief Executive Officer, and Karim Hajjar, Chief Financial Officer, of the Solvay Group, declare that to the best of their knowledge:

- The summarized financial information, prepared in accordance with IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* as adopted by the European Union, reflects a faithful image of the assets and liabilities, financial situation and results of the Solvay Group;
- The management report contains a faithful presentation of significant events occurring during 2015, and their impact on the summarized financial information;

• The main risks and uncertainties are in accordance with the assessment disclosed in the section "Risk Management" in the Solvay 2014 Annual Report, taking into account the current economic and financial environment.

### 10. Report of the statutory auditor

Deloitte confirmed that the fieldwork related to the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Solvay SA/NV ("the company") and its subsidiaries (jointly "the Group"), prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, and with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium, is substantially completed. Deloitte confirmed that the financial information shown in this press release requires no comments on its part and is in agreement with the consolidated financial statements of the Group. The complete audit report related to the audit of the consolidated financial statements will be shown in the 2015 Annual Report that will be published on the Internet (www.solvay.com) on March 31, 2016.

### FINANCIAL GLOSSARY

Adjusted: Adjusted performance indicators exclusively exclude non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia (and Cytec) acquisition.

- Adjusted basic earnings per share: Adjusted net income (Solvay share) divided by the weighted average number of shares, after deducting own shares purchased to cover stock option programs.
- Adjusted net income (Solvay share): Net income (Solvay share) excluding non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting
  impacts related to the Rhodia (and Cytec) acquisition.
- Adjusted net result: Net result excluding non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia (and Cytec) acquisition.

**Basic earnings per share**: Net income (Solvay's share) divided by the weighted average number of shares, after deducting own shares purchased to cover stock option programs.

Debt management impacts: It mainly includes gains/(losses) related to the early repayment or issuance of debt.

**EBIT**: Earnings before interest and taxes.

**Free cash flow**: Cash flow from operating activities (including dividends from associates and joint ventures) and Cash flow from investing activities (excluding acquisitions and sales of subsidiaries and other investments and excluding loans to associates and non-consolidated subsidiaries).

GBU: Global business unit.

Gearing ratio: Net financial debt / total equity.

**IFRS**: International Financial Reporting Standards.

**MGA** related impacts: It mainly includes non-cash Purchase Price Acquisition impacts (eg. inventory step-up and amortization of intangibles other than for PPA Rhodia) and retention bonuses relative to Chemlogics and other acquisitions.

**Net financial expenses**: Net financial charges comprise net interest expense , plus other gains (losses) on net indebtedness, costs of discounting provisions (namely, related to Post-employment benefits and HSE liabilities) and income / loss from available-for-sale financial assets

Net pricing: The difference between the change in sales prices and the change in variable costs.

**Net sales**: Sales of goods and value added services corresponding to Solvay's know-how and core business. Net sales exclude other revenues primarily comprising commodity and utility trading transactions and other revenue deemed as incidental by the Group.

**Non-recurring items**: It mainly includes provisions for restructuring, environmental costs linked to non-operating sites, major litigation expenses, impairments, capital gains/losses and fees linked to active portfolio management.

**OCI**: Other Comprehensive Income.

**Other adjustments**: Adjustments made for elements distorting comparability over time of the Group underlying performance. They include non-recurring items, M&A related impacts that include PPA impacts of acquisitions other than Rhodia and Cytec and retention bonus granted at closing date, net financial expense or income related to change in discount rates, hyperinflation financial results and debt refinancing, adjustments of equity earnings for impairment gains or losses and unrealized foreign exchange gains or losses on debt, tax effects related to the items listed before, tax expense or income of prior years, all adjustments listed before for continuing operations and impacting discontinuing operations.

**pp**: Unit of percentage points or 1.0%, used to express the evolution of ratios.

PPA: Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to acquisitions, primarily for Rhodia and Cytec.

**PSU**: Performance share unit.

**REBITDA**: Recurring earnings before interest and taxes, depreciation and amortization. It is defined as EBIT before depreciation and amortization charges, non-recurring items (including from equity-consolidated companies), M&A related impacts (including but not limited to Purchase Price Allocation elements) and major financing-related impacts from equity-consolidated companies (e.g RusVinyl's).

Results on disposals: It includes gains/(losses) from activities consolidated as Discontinued operations.

SO: Stock option.

**Underlying**: Underlying figures aim at adjusting IFRS statements for the non-cash Purchase Price Allocation (PPA) accounting impacts related to the Rhodia and Cytec acquisition, for the coupons of hybrid perpetual bonds, classified as equity under IFRS, and for other items that distort the comparability of the Group's underlying performance. Underlying results are deemed to provide a more comparable indication of Solvay's fundamental performance over the reference periods

**Underlying net debt**: Underlying net debt reclassifies as debt 100% of the hybrid perpetual bonds, considered as equity under IFRS.

**yoy**: Year on year comparison.

### BUSINESS GLOSSARY

**FKM**: Fluoro-elastomer, polymer type.

HPPO: Hydrogen peroxide propylene oxide, new technology to produce propylene oxide using hydrogen peroxide.

**PA**: Polyamide, polymer type.

PCC: Precipitated calcium carbonate.

PVC: Polyvinyl chloride, polymer type.

**PVDF**: Polyvinylidene fluoride, polymer type.

### SAFE HARBOR

This press release may contain forward-looking information. Forward-looking statements describe expectations, plans, strategies, goals, future events or intentions. The achievement of forward-looking statements contained in this press release is subject to risks and uncertainties relating to a number of factors, including general economic factors, interest rate and foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, changing market conditions, product competition, the nature of product development, impact of acquisitions and divestitures, restructurings, products withdrawals, regulatory approval processes, all-in scenario of R&I projects and other unusual items.

Consequently, actual results or future events may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Should known or unknown risks or uncertainties materialize, or should our assumptions prove inaccurate, actual results could vary materially from those anticipated. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

We also expect our cash conversion to grow significantly relative to historic levels as we curtail our capital spend to approximately €1bn, lower relative to historic levels.

The Group's dividend policy, consistent over many years, is to maintain or grow where possible the dividend on ordinary shares.

### KEY DATES FOR INVESTORS

May 3, 2016	Publication of the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2016 results
May 10, 2016	Annual General Shareholders' meeting
May 13, 2016	Ex-coupon date
May 16, 2016	Dividend record date
May 17, 2016	Final dividend payment
July 29, 2016	Publication of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter and 1 <sup>st</sup> half year 2016 results
November 8, 2016	Publication of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2016 results

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An international chemical and advanced materials company, Solvay assists its customers in innovating, developing and delivering high-value, sustainable products and solutions which consume less energy and reduce CO2 emissions, optimize the use of resources and improve the quality of life. Solvay serves diversified global end markets, including automotive and aerospace, consumer goods and healthcare, energy and environment, electricity and electronics, building and construction as well as industrial applications. Solvay is headquartered in Brussels with about 30,000 employees spread across 53 countries. It generated pro forma net sales of € 12.4 bn in 2015, with 90% made from activities where it ranks among the world's top 3 players. Solvay SA (SOLB.BE) is listed on Euronext in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLB.BR).

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