

October 1st, 2009

CARMEUSE GROUP FINANCING

The Carmeuse Group has reached an agreement with its bankers on its proposed refinancing package. The proposed amendments to the Group's bank facilities have been approved with unanimous consent of all banks involved in the financing.

Due to the economic crisis and its significant impact on certain of its clients like the steel or construction sectors, the Group is facing a significant reduction of volumes sold since October 2008. Consequently, the Carmeuse Group consolidated EBITDA is materially impacted and is assumed to remain impacted at least until the end of 2011. The Company breached for the first time certain of its agreed bank covenants at the end of June 2009.

The financial covenants were reset until 2012 at a level that takes into account a fairly conservative hypothesis on the potential recovery of the economy.

In parallel, the Group has successfully negotiated the extension until mid-2012 of a bank facility originally maturing in December 2009, ensuring its necessary liquidity and needed financial flexibility throughout the crisis for the next 3 years.

After having negotiated the support of its key bankers during the spring 2009, the Group presented its proposed financing restructuring package to the entire syndication of bankers during the summer, obtained a unanimous consent and was able to close the different financing agreements as of September 30.

The Carmeuse Group is a leading global producer of lime, with more than 140 years of experience in the extraction and processing of high calcium limestone and dolomitic stone into lime and lime-related products for many different industrial customers.

Lime is used in multiple aspects of our everyday life (steel, construction, agro-food, paper, chemicals, plastics, carpets, paints, pollution control, water treatment, ...).

Carmeuse is present in about 90 locations across Western Europe (in Italy, Belgium, France and the Netherlands), Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia and Turkey) and North America (the United States and Canada) and Africa (Ghana).

Total consolidated group net turnover amounted to 1,2 billion Euros in 2008.