

CARMEUSE GROUP Interim Report as of March 2011

1. Net turnover reaches € 282.6 million for the first three months of this year corresponding to a 11.3% organic increase compared to last year first quarter.
2. EBITDA amounts to € 59.7 million showing an organic improvement of 20.2% compared to 2010, mainly driven by the actions initiated by the Group since end 2008 and improved business conditions.
3. Net profit is €15.2 million (2010: €10.2 million).

OPERATIONS

Europe

The net turnover for the period increased by 17.7% at equivalent exchange rates and comparable perimeter compared to the first quarter 2010, due to increased demand for both crude and burnt products resulting from strong demand from the steel industry throughout the region. We enjoyed increased activity in the building and construction segment in Western Europe that enjoyed milder meteorological conditions as compared to first quarter of 2010; in Central and Eastern Europe however conditions remain weak in the building and construction market due to persistent economic difficulties. The net turnover was also positively impacted by the continued development of our Bosnia / Herzegovina's operations. The operating result benefited from such overall increased activity level despite increased raw material costs.

North America

The net turnover for the first quarter, at equivalent exchange rates increased by 5% owing mostly to increased demand from steel industry while activity on Flue Gas Desulfurization and environment sectors remained stable. The construction segment made no significant progress. The increased activity, coupled with positive impact from cost saving actions and plant network optimization initiated from late 2008 onwards resulted in better operating results, albeit offset by increasing raw material prices in this first quarter.

As noticed during the year 2010, sold volumes from sands operations keep on positive trend and significantly outperformed last year figure during this first quarter 2011.

GROUP FINANCING

The Group Consolidated Net Debt as of March 31, 2011 remained unchanged at €630.6 million, compared to €630.1 million end of December 2010 supported by a weaker US dollar.

Net consolidated financial charges for these first months of the year ended at €3.7 compared to €0.5 million a year ago. Interest charges are at similar level as last year while movements from (non cash) foreign currency exchange rate impacted the financial net result.

NET RESULT

The net profit, after taxes, reaches €15.2 million compared to €10.2 million by end of March 2010. The improved current economic environment coupled with all initiatives implemented by the Management during the economic crisis supported this positive result. .

PERSPECTIVES AND OUTLOOK

While Carmeuse remains reasonably positive for the first half of the year, global manufacturing indicators have moderated recently and, in the steel industry in particular, potential reduction of capacity utilization is expected for the second half of the year. Moreover, the uncertainty on the consequences of the monetary policy conducted by the FED leads to some expectations of slow down of the economic growth in the US and, in Europe, one should remain cautious about the inflation-induced risk as well as sovereign debt crisis risk that may affect some of the European member states.

The Management remains however confident that the Company's cost structure, along with the flexibility of its production plant network, will enable Carmeuse to face a potential economic slowdown or benefit from an ongoing recovery.

The Carmeuse Group is a leading global producer of lime, with almost 150 years of experience in the extraction and processing of high calcium limestone and dolomitic stone into lime and lime-related products for industrial and commercial customer.

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 (Italy, Belgium, France and the Netherlands), Central and Eastern Europe (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia and Turkey), North America (the United States and Canada) and Africa (Ghana).

Total consolidated group net turnover amounted to 1.1 billion Euros in 2010.