



Media Relations

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News Release Persbericht News Release News Release

UNILEVER TAKES STANCE AGAINST DEFORESTATION

Rotterdam, 11 December 2009 - Unilever today announced that it has decided to suspend all future purchases of palm oil from the Indonesian company PT SMART, part of the Sinar Mas group, until such time as they can provide verifiable proof that none of their plantations are contributing to the destruction of high conservation value forests and expanding onto peat lands.

For the past 18 months Unilever, a large user of palm oil, has been scrutinising the activities of its suppliers to ensure that they meet the highest possible sustainability standards.

Early in 2009 Unilever conducted an independent audit of its major suppliers. This revealed several areas of concern. These are being addressed on an individual basis.

However, new evidence has come to light in a report due to be published by Greenpeace this week. The report makes serious allegations against Sinar Mas's environmental practices. As a result Unilever has decided to take immediate action.

Marc Engel, Chief Procurement Officer, said: "The Greenpeace claims are of a nature that we can't ignore. Unilever is committed to sustainable sourcing. Therefore, we have notified PT SMART that we have no choice but to suspend our future purchasing of palm oil."

"If PT SMART are able to come forward with concrete proof that they are not involved in unacceptable environmental practices then we would certainly re-consider our position."

Unilever is an active member of the RSPO. It is an organisation that Unilever helped found and one to which it remains wholeheartedly committed.

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About Unilever

Unilever's mission is to add vitality to life. We meet everyday needs for nutrition, hygiene and personal care with brands that help people feel good, look good and get more out of life.

Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of fast moving consumer goods with strong local roots in more than 100 countries across the globe. Its portfolio includes some of the world's best known and most loved brands including thirteen €1 billion brands and global leadership in many categories in which the company operates. The portfolio features brand icons such as Knorr, Hellmann's, Lipton, Flora, Dove, Lux, Lynx, Persil, Domestos and Marmite.

Unilever has around 174,000 employees in approaching 100 countries and generated annual sales of €40 billion in 2008. For more information about Unilever and its brands, please visit www.unilever.com.

Safe Harbour

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements, including 'forward-looking statements' within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as 'expects', 'anticipates', 'intends', 'believes' or the negative of these terms and other similar expressions of future performance or results, including any financial objectives, and their negatives are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and assumptions regarding anticipated developments and other factors affecting the Group. They are not historical facts, nor are they guarantees of future performance. Because these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements, including, among others, competitive pricing and activities, consumption levels, costs, the ability to maintain and manage key customer relationships and supply chain sources, currency values, interest rates, the ability to integrate acquisitions and complete planned divestitures, the ability to complete planned restructuring activities, physical risks, environmental risks, the ability to manage regulatory, tax and legal matters and resolve pending matters within current estimates, legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments, political, economic and social conditions in the geographic markets where the Group operates and new or changed priorities of the Boards. Further details of potential risks and uncertainties affecting the Group are described in the Group's filings with the London Stock Exchange, Euronext Amsterdam and the US Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Annual Report & Accounts on Form 20-F. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this announcement. Except as required by any applicable law or regulation, the Group expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in the Group's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.