

Half-yearly Report on 30 June 2007



# Financial calendar 2007 - 2008

6 November 2007: Publication of the 9 months results 2007 Publication of the annual results 2007 Ordinary General Meeting Begin March 2008:

8 April 2008:

Begin May 2008: Publication of the first quarter results 2008 Publication of the half-yearly results 2008 End July 2008: Begin November 2008: Publication of the 9 months results 2008

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GBL's primary objective is to create value for its shareholders over the medium-term.

Therefore, GBL strives to maintain and promote the growth of a portfolio of investments focused primarily on a small number of companies in which it plays its role as a professional shareholder.

This portfolio will evolve over time following the evolution of the different companies as well as market opportunities. The group invests in companies that offer potential to create value for shareholders and sells investments deemed to have reached maturity.

GBL's dividend policy seeks to achieve a sound balance between providing an attractive cash yield to shareholders and achieving sustained growth in its share price.

# Data as of end June 2007 (end June 2006)

Global

**Net earnings** EUR 458 million (EUR 2,718 million) Per share

EUR 3.23 (EUR 19.99)

Cash earnings

EUR 394 million (EUR 326 million)

EUR 2.44 (EUR 2.22)

Adjusted net assets EUR 18,881 million (EUR 15,145 million) EUR 128.30 (EUR 102.91)

# Half-yearly Report

The Board of Directors approved on 31 July 2007 GBL's IFRS consolidated financial statements for the first six months of 2007. The accounts have been put through a limited audit by Deloitte. The financial reporting for the period ended 30 June 2007 is in compliance with IAS 34 – Interim financial reporting.

Consolidated net earnings as of 30 June 2007 amounted to EUR 458 million (EUR 3.23 per share), as compared to EUR 2,718 million for the first half of 2006. The latter figure included EUR 2,487 million of net earnings contribution and capital gain on the disposal of Bertelsmann. Excluding this capital gain, net earnings registered a 35% increase.

Cash earnings totalled EUR 394 million, an increase of EUR 68 million, reflecting both the higher dividends collected on shareholdings and the changes in the portfolio during the period. Over the past 12 months, GBL has reshuffled more than one third of its portfolio, compensating in large measure for the EUR 120 million in Bertelsmann dividends received for the last time in 2006.

GBL's adjusted net assets amounted to EUR 128.30 per share on 30 June 2007, an increase of nearly 25% over its level of end June 2006.

# **Highlights**

GBL implemented a dynamic investment policy during the first six months of 2007 in the amount of over EUR 3 billion. In the latter part of the period, the group reconstituted its financial resources through a capital increase enabling it to continue strengthening its portfolio and to take advantage of new opportunities.

- GBL reiterated its support for the Suez strategy and confirmed its role of historic shareholder, increasing its interest, in January 2007, to 9.5% share capital, an investment of nearly EUR 800 million. For the first six months of 2007, the Suez share price rose by 8%, reaching EUR 42.49 at end June.
- GBL raised its shareholding in Lafarge from 15.9% at end December 2006 to 17.3%, an investment of EUR 378 million. For the first half of 2007, the Lafarge share price rose by 20%, from EUR 112.70 to EUR 135.40.
- GBL enhanced the diversification of its portfolio by raising its friendly shareholding, alongside the Ricard family, from 2.8% on 31 December 2006 to 6.2% in Pernod Ricard, the world's second biggest wine and spirits firm. The investment was implemented by means of gradual acquisitions on the stock exchange, in the amount of nearly EUR 560 million. The Pernod Ricard share price increased by 13% over the period, after the inclusion of the grant of free shares in January, and stood at EUR 163.95 at end June 2007.
- Acting jointly with Compagnie Nationale à Portefeuille, GBL secured a total holding of 5% in the capital of Iberdrola, a major energy sector player in Spain. GBL's 3% shareholding represents an investment of EUR 1,450 million.
- Along with its portfolio of listed assets, GBL maintained and expanded its private equity holdings through Ergon Capital Partners II and Sagard II, whose
  investment capacity amounts to EUR 350 million and EUR 1 billion respectively. It released for that purpose a total of nearly EUR 90 million during the
  first half of 2007.
- In June, GBL launched a capital increase with pre-emptive rights, in the proportion of one new share for 10 existing shares, at the price of EUR 84. The share issue met with considerable success, securing a participation rate of 95.7% of shareholders. The remainder was subscribed by new investors via scripts. It resulted in the creation of 14.2 million shares for a gross amount of EUR 1,192 million.

# GBL's portfolio and adjusted net assets on 30 July 2007

	Portfolio		Adjusted n	et assets
	% in capital	% of voting rights	Share price (EUR)	(EUR million)
Total	3.9	3.6	57.20	5,373
Suez	9.5	13.2	38.11	4,650
Lafarge	17.3	16.2	121.76	3,741
Iberdrola	3.0	3.0	40.23	1,509
Imerys	26.3	34.3	71.82	1,203
Pernod Ricard	6.2	5.6	153.13	1,036
Other investments				344
Portfolio				17,856
Net cash/trading/treasury shares				786
Adjusted net assets				18,642
Adjusted net assets per share (EUR)				115.53
Share price (EUR)				87.65

The adjusted net assets on 30 July include gross cash of EUR 1,192 million related to the capital increase that concluded in early July. The number of outstanding shares now amounts to 161,358,287 as a result of this operation.

# Half-yearly IFRS consolidated results

Cash and other Associated and EUR million earnings non cash companies capital gains Consolidated Co	onsolidated
Net earnings from associated	
companies - 52.4 - <b>52.4</b>	25.8
Result on discontinued operations 0.0	2,487.0
Net dividends on investments 368.4 (30.1) <b>338.3</b>	187.3
Interest income and expenses 12.9 (1.8) 11.1	(11.3)
Other financial income and expenses 14.9 (13.2) - 1.7	20.7
Other operating income and expenses (10.7) (0.4) (11.1)	(12.1)
Earnings on disposals and	
impairments of non-current assets 65.2 <b>65.2</b>	11.1
Taxes 8.5 (8.0) <b>0.5</b>	9.8
Consolidated result for the period 394.0 (23.4) 52.4 35.1 458.1	2,718.3
Basic earnings per share 3.23	19.99
Diluted earnings per share 3.17	19.30

The weighted average number of shares used to calculate basic earnings per share is 141,898,865 (135,989,650 on 30 June 2006); for diluted earnings per share, the number is 147,227,115 (141,244,115 on 30 June 2006).

# Cash earnings (EUR 394.0 million compared to EUR 326.4 million)

Cash earnings on 30 June 2007 stood at EUR 394 million, an increase of 21% compared to their level on 30 June 2006, resulting primarily from higher dividend payouts and earnings on the cash position during the period:

- Net dividends on shareholdings continued to rise in spite of the removal of the Bertelsmann contractual dividend (EUR 120 million), collected for the last time in 2006. They amounted to EUR 368 million, an increase of EUR 34 million as a result of:
  - the higher dividends per share paid by Suez (+ 20%), Lafarge (+ 18%), Total (+ 15%) and Imerys (+ 9%);
  - the development of the investments in existing shareholdings and the inclusion for the first time of dividend in the amount of EUR 9 million paid by Pernod Ricard;
  - the disappearance of the 15% withholding tax for dividends paid by French companies in which the group holds a share of over 5%.

For the Iberdrola and Lafarge shares acquired after their respective general meetings, the dividends have not been included in the 2007 result but were deducted from their acquisition price respectively for EUR 18 million and EUR 2 million.

Net dividends (cash earnings)		
EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Suez	146.4	78.2
Total (balance)	91.9	69.5
Lafarge	91.3	38.8
Imerys	30.1	27.6
Pernod Ricard (interim)	8.5	-
Bertelsmann	-	120.0
Other	0.2	0.8
Total	368.4	334.9

- Net interest income amounted to EUR 13 million for the period and should be seen in relation to the group's cash position of EUR 2.6 billion at the start of the year, which is gradually being invested to strengthen and diversify the portfolio.
- The collection of a tax credit of EUR 9 million recognized in the accounts on 31 December 2006 and cancelled from the mark to market section on 30 June 2007.

### Mark to market and other non cash (EUR - 23.4 million compared to EUR 15.6 million)

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Interest income and expenses	(1.8)	(1.7)
Other financial income and expenses	(13.2)	15.2
Other operating income and expenses	(0.4)	1.6
Taxes	(8.0)	0.5
Total	(23.4)	15.6

On 30 June 2007, this heading primarily included actuarial depreciation on exchangeable bonds, variations in fair value of options and elimination of the dividend on treasury shares.

# Associated companies (EUR 52.4 million compared to EUR 134.8 million)

# Imerys (EUR 39.9 million compared to EUR 14.5 million)

Imerys registered turnover of EUR 1,705 million for the first half of 2007, a 2.3% increase over the same period in 2006. At comparable group structure and exchange rates, growth amounted to 4.4%.

In a macro-economic environment characterised by the US dollar's continuing decline in relation to the euro, as well as stable energy prices, Imerys registered current operating income of EUR 243 million ( $\pm$  6.2%), essentially as the result of improved supply in each of its three business divisions. Its net current earnings amounted to EUR 155 million ( $\pm$  3.0%), reflecting the anticipated increase in financial income during the first half of 2007. On 30 June 2007, net earnings amounted to EUR 151 million, compared to EUR 55 million for the same period in 2006. Net earnings as of 30 June 2006 had been affected by the reorganisation of the group's kaolin operations in the amount of EUR - 95.4 million.

During the first half of 2007, Imerys pursued its development with certain acquisitions. Following the acquisition of UCM in April 2007, Imerys continued strengthening its positions with operations in China, India, Argentina and Ukraine.

GBL's shareholding in Imerys has not changed and the latter's contribution to the half-yearly results amounts to EUR 40 million, as against EUR 15 million on 30 June 2006.

## Ergon Capital Partners / Ergon Capital Partners II (ECP) (EUR 12.5 million compared to EUR 11.3 million)

ECP's contribution to GBL's results weighted in at EUR 13 million (EUR 11 million on 30 June 2006), primarily as a result in the change in fair value of its shareholdings. At the start of 2007, ECP invested in two Belgian companies, Aliplast and Joris Ide, further diversifying its portfolio that already includes Stroili, King Benelux, La Gardenia and Seves.

### Eliminations and capital gains (EUR 35.1 million compared to EUR 2,241.5 million)

GBL's half-yearly results in 2006 were characterised essentially by the disposal of its 25.1% shareholding in Bertelsmann, which generated a capital gain of EUR 2.378 million.

During the first six months of 2007, divestments by private equity funds (Sagard and PAI Europe) resulted in a positive result of EUR 45 million, mainly on the disposal of Vivarte, Medi Partenaires, Saur, Provimi and the recapitalisation of Coin. In June 2006, the private equity funds contributed EUR 11 million to GBL's result. GBL also registered a capital gain of EUR 19 million on different arbitrage operations on shares in its portfolio.

Net dividends on shareholdings consolidated under the equity method are eliminated and represent EUR 30 million from Imerys.

# Outlook for the year 2007

GBL's annual results are expected to be influenced in large measure by the half-yearly results. Indeed, the greater part of net dividends on shareholdings were accounted for at 30 June 2007, apart from interim payments or balances on announced dividends to be paid during the second half of the year by Total, Pernod Ricard and Iberdrola.

However, treasury income in the second half of 2007 will be bolstered by the EUR 1.183 million proceed of the capital increase received in early July.

The year end results will also be influenced by the evolution of the contributions by the associated companies Imerys and ECP, possible adjustments in the fair value of financial instruments, and profits on any disposals that may occur.

Results for the third guarter (30 September) will be published on 6 November 2007.

# Auditor's report on the half-yearly information

We have performed a limited review of the accompanying consolidated balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and notes 1 to 8 (jointly the "interim financial information") of Groupe Bruxelles Lambert ("the company") and its subsidiaries (jointly "the group") for the six months period ended 30 June 2007.

The Board of Directors of the company is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this interim financial information prepared in accordance with IAS 34, "Interim Financial Reporting", as adopted by the European Union.

Our responsibility is to issue a report on this interim financial information based on our limited review.

Our limited review was conducted in accordance with the recommended auditing standards on limited reviews applicable in Belgium, as issued by the "Institut des Reviseurs d'Entreprises/Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren". A limited review consists of making inquiries of group management and applying analytical and other review procedures to the interim financial information and underlying financial data. A limited review is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with the auditing standards on consolidated annual accounts as issued by the "Institut des Reviseurs d'Entreprises/Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren". Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Based on our limited review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the interim financial information for the six months period ended 30 June 2007 is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting, as adopted by the European Union.

31 July 2007

The Statutory Auditor,

Deloitte Reviseurs d'Entreprises SC s.f.d. SCRL Represented by Michel Denayer and Eric Nys

# Evolution of shareholdings in the first half of 2007

# Total (28.8% of adjusted net assets)

www.total.com

During the first half of 2007, the oil industry continued to feel the effects of a favourable market on the whole. The oil parameters are sustained by robust demand and continuing tensions on production capacities, even as inflation in operating costs continued to plague the sector. Compared to the first half of 2006, crude oil prices showed a 4% decrease and the spot price for UK natural gas fell by 41%; in contrast, further downstream in the oil chain, refining margins and petrochemical activities progressed.

In that context, the company registered adjusted net income of EUR 6.1 billion for the first half of 2007, 10% below the 2006 level. Expressed in dollars per share, the adjusted net income is equivalent to the level of the first half of 2006. The oil company's profitability amounted to 25% for the past twelve months.

These performances were achieved while the company was registering, from one half-year period to the next, an increase in its hydrocarbon production of 0.5% and, conversely, a 2% decrease in its refined volumes linked to a high maintenance programme.

In keeping with its objectives, the group is continuing to implement its investment programme of some US\$ 16 billion for 2007.

# Suez (24.9% of adjusted net assets)

www.suez.com

Suez is set to publish its half-yearly results by the end of August 2007. As of the date of this report, only the turnover figures had been communicated; the company confirmed at the same time its performance objectives for the year 2007 as a whole, namely growth of over 10% in gross operating income and of over 15% in current operating income.

During the first six months of 2007, all Suez activities continued their commercial dynamism. The company's turnover amounted to EUR 23.7 billion, a 6.2% increase over its level on 30 June 2006. Underlying organic growth, excluding the effects of changes in group structure, exchange rates or variations in gas prices, amounted to 3.7% (6.9% excluding climate effects).

All Suez turnover is generated by the Energy and Environment businesses; 89% of total turnover is generated in Europe and North America, with 81% on the European continent alone.

The process of integrating Electrabel into the group continued with the closing of the offer for the acquisition of all shares of the company (1.4%) not yet held by Suez.

A tie-up with Gaz de France remains a priority being studied by the different parties.

# Lafarge (20.1% of adjusted net assets)

www.lafarge.com

Lafarge's activity was sustained during the first half of 2007, with a 4% increase in turnover, for an organic growth of 8%. The group took advantage of the general dynamism of the construction market, in particular in Western Europe (7% growth in turnover), Central and Eastern Europe (+ 62%) and Asia (+ 10%), in spite of a slowdown in the residential sector in North America.

The Excellence Plan 2008 was put into practice, producing a positive impact on costs and resulting in the disposal of the Roofing division to PAI for an enterprise value of EUR 2.4 billion, in accordance with the announced refocusing of priorities.

As of 30 June 2007, current operating earnings had risen by 20%, corresponding to an organic growth of 24% compared to the first six months of 2006. Half-yearly net income amounted to EUR 934 million, a 70% increase. It resulted from enhanced operating performances and the relutive impacts of the acquisition of minority shares in Lafarge North America effective 16 May 2006, along with capital gains on divestments and tax optimisation effects partly offset by higher financial expenditures.

At the end of the half-year period, the management of Lafarge confirmed its confidence in the implementation of its 2008 plan, and detailed its longer-term strategy, which gives precedence to internal growth with a stepped-up programme of capacity increase as well as technical innovation through the introduction of new products, particularly in concrete.

# Iberdrola (8.1% of adjusted net assets)

www.iberdrola.es

Iberdrola proceeded in spring 2007 with its acquisition of Scottish Power for some EUR 17 billion, through a cash/paper offer, a transaction that resulted in a substantial change in the group's profile and structure.

Against that backdrop, Iberdrola registered for first half 2007 net income, group share, of EUR 1.1 billion, a 35% improvement over 2006 (22% per share), resulting in particular from the partial integration (70 days) of Scottish Power.

The group's operating income (EBITDA and EBIT) expanded by 25% and 22% respectively from one half-year period to the next. These performances were achieved in spite of the shrinking of the contribution of deregulated activities on the Spanish market, affected by a slowdown in demand and a net decline in prices (- 36%). Indeed, developments in the group's other divisions of activity kept consolidated EBITDA at a level of organic growth of 4.8%.

Iberdrola also finalised, in early July 2007, a capital increase of EUR 3.4 billion to finance the friendly takeover bid launched on the American company Energy East, It also worked during the fourth quarter towards the introduction on the stock exchange of Iberdrola Renovables, a firm that will group its renewable activities.

# Imerys (6.5% of adjusted net assets)

www.imerys.com

During the first half of 2007, on overall healthy markets and in an economic environment marked by further depreciation of the dollar and by the levering out of energy prices, Imerys registered a turnover of EUR 1,705 million, a 2.3% increase. At comparable group structure and exchange rates, growth amounted to 4.4%.

Due to the improved product offering in all three business divisions, Imerys recorded a current operating income of EUR 243 million, a 6.2% increase. At comparable group structure and exchange rates, growth amounted to 10.8%. The net current income raised by 3% at EUR 155 million due to a foreseen increase of the financial income. The group had benefited in the first half of 2006 from non-recurrent exchange gains.

Net income amounts to EUR 151 million, non comparable with the income of the first half of 2006 which was affected by the reorganisation costs of the kaolin operations in the amount of EUR 95.4 million.

During the first half of 2007, Imerys pursued its development by external growth. Following the acquisition of UCM in April 2007, Imerys continued strengthening its positions with operations in China, India, Argentina and Ukraine.

# Pernod Ricard (5.6% of adjusted net assets)

www.pernod-ricard.com

Pernod Ricard's financial year closes on 30 June. On 26 July, the group announced turnover for 2006/2007 of EUR 6,443 million, a 6.2% increase. At comparable group structure and exchange rates, the increase amounted to 9.1%.

Internal growth in the spirits division totalled 11.0% for the year, while wines progressed by 1.3% thanks to a rebound during the latter half of the year. The strategic brands posted organic growth of 13%, confirming the effectiveness of the premiumisation strategy.

The financial year was characterised by the return to sustained organic growth in France (+ 3.6%) and Europe (+ 6.3%). Dynamism on emerging markets was seen in organic growth of 12.3% for the Americas and 11.4% for the Asia/rest of the world region.

Results for the year will be published on 20 September 2007. The group's Management anticipates an increase in net current income, group share, at comparable exchange rates, of slightly over 20%. On those same bases, at the end of the first half of 2006/2007 (31 December 2006), net current income, group share, had progressed by 17.9%, and current operating income by 20%, as a result of a 9.7% organic growth in turnover.

# **Ergon Capital Partners (ECP)**

ECP is a private equity fund set up in February 2005 by GBL in partnership with Parcom Ventures, an ING subsidiary. With the creation of its second fund in December 2006, ECP has a total investment capacity of EUR 500 million. The company invests in firms with leading positions on niche markets offering expansion opportunities, and located primarily in Belgium, Italy, Spain and France.

During the first half of 2007, ECP actively pursued its investment policy and expanded its portfolio by acquiring majority or co-controlling shareholdings in two additional companies: Aliplast (a leading manufacturer of aluminium frames for windows, doors and verandas) and Joris Ide Group (the number-one independent manufacturer of steel roofing and siding sections in Benelux). The two investments amounted to EUR 120 million.

On 30 June 2007, GBL paid a total of EUR 94 million for the two ECP funds.

# Sagard Private Equity Partners (Sagard I) and Sagard Private Equity Partners II (Sagard II)

GBL made on undertaking to subscribe to the initial Sagard I fund in the amount of EUR 50 million (of EUR 536 million) and, since 2006, EUR 150 million (of EUR 1,010 million) in Sagard II.

During the first half of 2007, Sagard I proceeded with the sale of Vivarte and Medi Partenaires. Sagard II consolidated its portfolio by acquiring an interest in Aliplast and Saint-Gobain Desjonqueres and by reacquiring a partial share in Vivarte's capital.

In that context, GBL's cumulative investments in both funds amounted to EUR 80 million as of 30 June 2007, while EUR 33 million were refunded on disposals.

## PAI Europe III

GBL has paid up nearly 85% of its 2001 subscription commitment of EUR 40 million in PAI Europe III and has collected dividend payouts of EUR 65 million.

During the first six months of the year, PAI Europe III sold Vivarte, Saur and Provimi and recapitalised Coin.

# Half-yearly financial statements

# **Consolidated income statement**

EUR million	Notes	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Net earnings from associated companies	1	52.4	25.8
Result on discontinued operations	2	0.0	2,487.0
Net dividends on investments	3	338.3	187.3
Net dividends on investments	3	336.3	107.3
Interest income and expenses	4	11.1	(11.3)
Non-current assets		1.8	2.1
Current assets		31.8	0.9
Financial debt		(22.5)	(14.3)
Other financial income and expenses	-	1.7	20.7
Gains on trading securities and derivatives	5	2.8	20.7
Other		(1.1)	(0.9)
ouici		(1.1)	(0.9)
Other operating income and expenses		(11.1)	(12.1)
Earnings on disposals and impairments of non-current assets	6	65.2	11.1
Taxes		0.5	9.8
Tancs		0.5	5.0
Consolidated result of the period		458.1	2,718.3
Minority interests			-
Share of the group in the consolidated result		458.1	2,718.3
Basic earnings per share		3.23	19 99
Diluted earnings per share			
Basic earnings per share Diluted earnings per share		3.23 3.17	19.99 19.30

# **Consolidated balance sheet**

EUR million	Notes	30 June 2007	31 December 2006
Non-current assets		18,519.7	13,496.0
Tangible assets		20.4	17.0
Investments		18,482.6	13,471.6
Shareholding in associated companies	1	600.5	536.6
Investments available-for-sale	3	17,882.1	12,935.0
Other non-current assets		16.2	6.9
Deferred tax assets		0.5	0.5
Current assets	4	397.1	2,737.2
Trading assets	·	57.5	43.4
Cash and cash equivalents		304.1	2,648.2
Other assets		35.5	45.6
Total assets		18,916.8	16,233.2
10441 400000		10,510.0	10,233.2
Shareholders' equity	8	17,678.2	15,682.0
Capital		595.7	595.7
Share premium account		2,690.7	2,690.7
Reserves		14,391.8	12,395.6
Minority interests		0.0	0.0
Non-current liabilities	4	436.0	434.6
Exchangeable bonds		414.7	412.7
Other financial debt		15.2	15.2
Deferred tax liabilities		5.2	5.8
Provisions		0.9	0.9
Current liabilities	4	802.6	116.6
Financial debt		607.0	4.3
Tax liabilities		1.6	3.4
Derivatives		51.4	35.4
Other creditors		142.6	73.5
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity		18,916.8	16,233.2

# **Consolidated cash flow statement**

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Cash flow from current operations	459.0	333.2
Earnings before interest and taxes	446.5	2,719.8
Adjustments for:	446.5	2,/19.0
Net earnings from associated companies	(52.4)	(86.8)
Result on discontinued operations	(32.4)	(2,378.0)
Dividends paid by associated companies	30.1	99.6
Fair value revaluation	6.4	(17.0)
Earnings on disposals and impairments of non-current assets	(65.2)	(11.0)
Other	(5.9)	0.3
Interest income and expenses received (paid)	9.6	(17.7
Taxes received	8.5	9.2
Change in trading assets and derivatives	(4.5)	6.2
Change in working capital requirements	85.9	8.6
Cash flow from investing activities	(3,136.9)	(1,352.6)
Acquisitions of:		
Investments	(50.3)	(28.9)
Tangible assets	(4.1)	(20.9)
Other financial assets	(3,220.4)	(1,336.3)
Disposals on investments and other financial assets	137.9	12.6
Cash flow from funding activities	333.8	977.9
Net capital increase		703.3
Dividends paid	(269.6)	(228.8)
Amounts received from financial debt	602.7	500.0
Repayment of financial debt	- 1	-
Net changes in treasury shares	0.7	3.4
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(2,344.1)	(41.5)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	2,648.2	82.5

# Consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity

EUR million	2007	2006
Shareholders' equity at 1 January	15,682.0	10,159.7
Change in fair value of investments	1,815.9	807.3
Changes of translation differences and other	(8.9)	(9.4)
Total of items directly inputted shareholders' equity	1,807.0	797.9
Result of the period	458.1	2,718.3
Dividends paid	(269.6)	(228.8)
Capital increase	-	703.3
Other	0.7	3.6
Total of transactions with equity holders	(268.9)	478.1
Shareholders' equity at 30 June	17,678.2	14,154.0

# Notes

# Accounting principles and seasonal aspect

The consolidated financial statements are drawn up in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted in the European Union and the interpretations published by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee of IASB (IFRIC).

The accounting and calculating methods used in the interim financial statement are identical to those used in the annual financial statements for 2006. The consolidated financial statements for the half-year ended 30 June 2007 comply with IAS 34 – Interim financial reporting.

The seasonal nature of the results is detailed in the prospects for the year 2007 as a whole.

# 1. Imerys and the private equity companies Ergon Capital Partners and Ergon Capital Partners II (ECP) consolidated using the equity method

### 1.1. Group share of net result

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Imerys	39.9	14.5
ECP	12.5	11.3
Net earnings from associated companies	52.4	25.8

Imerys registered consolidated net earnings of EUR 151 million for first half 2007. On the basis of GBL's percentage of ownership, Imerys contributed to GBL half-yearly results in the amount of EUR 40 million, an increase of EUR 25 million.

ECP's contribution as of 30 June 2007 amounted to EUR 13 million, as compared to EUR 11 million in June 2006, the increase resulting from the fair value of its portfolio of investments.

# 1.2. Share in shareholders' equity

EUR million	Imerys	ECP	Total
At 31 December 2006	472.0	64.6	536.6
Investments	-	50.3	50.3
Result of the period	39.9	12.5	52.4
Distribution	(30.1)	-	(30.1)
Differences on translation	(4.6)	-	(4.6)
Change in revaluation reserves	0.5	-	0.5
Other	(4.5)	(0.1)	(4.6)
At 30 June 2007	473.2	127.3	600.5

# 2. Result on discontinued operations

GBL's half-yearly result for 2006 was influenced in large measure by the disposal of its 25.1% shareholding in Bertelsmann. Consolidated under the equity method until 30 June 2006, Bertelsmann had contributed EUR 2,487 million to GBL's results. The disposal operation also resulted in proceeds of EUR 4,500 million for GBL.

# 3. Suez, Total, Lafarge, Iberdrola, Pernod Ricard and other investments

## 3.1. Net dividends on investments

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Suez	146.4	78.2
Total	91.9	69.5
Lafarge	91.3	38.8
Pernod Ricard	8.5	-
Other	0.2	0.8
Total	338.3	187.3

During the first six months of 2007, GBL accounted EUR 338 million dividends, an increase of EUR 151 million over the first half of 2006. The growth resulted from the payment of higher dividends per share (Suez + 20%, Lafarge + 18%, Total + 15%), the investments made by GBL over the course of a year and the absence of 15% withholding tax on dividends paid by the French companies in which GBL holds more than a 5% interest. The dividend on Pernod Ricard was paid for the first time early July. The dividend paid on the Lafarge and Iberdrola shares acquired after their respective general meetings were deducted from the acquisition price in the amount of EUR 2 million and EUR 18 million respectively.

## 3.2. Fair value and variation

Investments in listed companies are valued on the basis of closing share prices at the end of the period.

Investments in funds grouping PAI Europe III, Sagard and Sagard II are revalued at their fair value in terms of their investment portfolio.

EUR million	31 December 2006	Net acquisitions	Change in revaluation reserve	Fund earnings	30 June 2007
Total	5,133.8	-	527.0	-	5,660.8
Suez	3,990.2	798.3	395.8	-	5,184.3
Lafarge	3,170.4	323.4	666.6	-	4,160.4
Iberdrola	-	1,433.2	124.2	-	1,557.4
Pernod Ricard	446.1	557.9	105.2	-	1,109.2
Funds	101.6	(26.5)	(25.9)	45.4	94.6
Other	92.9	-	22.5	-	115.4
Fair value	12,935.0	3,086.3	1,815.4	45.4	17,882.1

# 3.3 Revaluation reserves

The variations in fair value of shareholdings at the end of the period are entered in the revaluation reserve.

EUR million At 31 December 2006	Total 3,008.6	Suez 1,972.3	Lafarge 615.1	Iberdrola 0.0	Pernod Ricard 17.6	Funds 40.0	Other 63.2	Total 5,716.8
Change in fair value	527.0	395.8	666.6	124.2	105.2	(25.9)	23.0	1,815.9
At 30 June 2007	3,535.6	2,368.1	1,281.7	124.2	122.8	14.1	86.2	7,532.7

# 4. Treasury and debt

# 4.1. Current assets and liabilities

EUR million	30 June 2007	31 December 2006
Current assets	397.1	2,737.2
Of which Cash and cash equivalents	304.1	2,648.2
Current liabilities	802.6	116.6
Of which Financial debt	607.0	4.3
Current assets – Current liabilities	(405.5)	2,620.6

As part of its overall financing policy, GBL raised its bank credit lines from EUR 950 million on 31 December 2006 to EUR 1,800 million. As of 30 June 2007, GBL had used the credit lines in the amount of EUR 600 million.

### 4.2. Non-current financial liabilities

EUR million	30 June 2007	31 December 2006
Non-current financial debts	429.9	427.9
Exchangeable bonds	414.7	412.7
Other financial debt	15.2	15.2

In April 2005, GBL issued bonds exchangeable for GBL shares in the amount of EUR 435 million. On 30 June 2007, the book value of those bonds amounted to EUR 415 million.

# 4.3. Interest income and expenses

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Interest on non-current assets	1.8	2.1
Interest on exchangeable loans	(8.2)	(8.1)
Nominal interest (cash earnings)	(6.4)	(6.4)
Amortized cost	(1.8)	(1.7)
Interest on treasury	17.5	(5.3)
Interest income and expenses	11.1	(11.3)

Interest expenses were primarily made up of interest on the exchangeable bonds 2005-2012. These latter included the cost of the annual coupon (2.95%) and the cost of reconstitution of the face value of the exchangeable bonds.

# 5. Other financial income and expenses

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Gains on trading assets and derivatives	2.8	21.6
Other	(1.1)	(0.9)
Total	1.7	20.7

On 30 June 2007, this heading essentially comprised changes in fair value on a rate swap and on the outstanding options.

# 6. Earnings on disposals and impairments of non-current assets

EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Funds	45.1	11.1
Other	20.1	-
Total	65.2	11.1

Divestments by private equity funds (Sagard and PAI Europe) during the first six months of the year resulted into a positive result of EUR 45 million for GBL, primarily the disposal of Vivarte, Medi Partenaires, Saur, Provimi and the recapitalisation of Coin.

# 7. Transactions with related parties

EUR million	Pargesa
Assets	
Trading assets	18.6
Liabilities	
Derivatives issued	11.5
Income statement	0.3

The amounts listed under "Trading assets" and "Derivatives issued" relate to options on Pargesa shares as well as shares held to cover the exercise of those options.

# 8. Shareholders' equity

# 8.1. Capital, share premium and reserves

		Share			Differences	Exchangeable		
		premium	Revaluation	Treasury	on	bonds	Retained	
EUR million	Capital	account	reserves	shares	translation	2005-2012	earnings	Total
At 31 December 2005	559.8	2,023.3	3,540.2	(187.9)	4.1	17.6	4,202.6	10,159.7
Total of items directly								
inputted shareholders'								
equity	-	-	807.3	-	(5.0)	-	(4.4)	797.9
Result of the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,718.3	2,718.3
Total of transactions								
with equity holders	35.9	667.4	-	3.6	-	-	(228.8)	478.1
At 30 June 2006	595.7	2,690.7	4,347.5	(184.3)	(0.9)	17.6	6,687.7	14,154.0
Total of items directly								
inputted shareholders'								
equity	-	-	1,369.3	-	(6.4)	-	-	1,362.9
Result of the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	165.0	165.0
Total of transactions								
with equity holders	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	(0.1)	0.1
At 31 December 2006	595.7	2,690.7	5,716.8	(184.1)	(7.3)	17.6	6,852.6	15,682.0
Total of items directly								
inputted shareholders'								
equity	-	-	1,815.9	-	(4.6)	-	(4.3)	1,807.0
Result of the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	458.1	458.1
Total of transactions							(222.2)	(00000)
with equity holders	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	(269.6)	(268.9)
At 30 June 2007	595.7	2,690.7	7,532.7	(183.4)	(11.9)	17.6	7,036.8	17,678.2

A cash capital increase with pre-emptive rights, in the gross amount of EUR 1,192 million, was certified in front of the notary on the  $2^{nd}$  and  $4^{nn}$  of July 2007. Following that operation, GBL's capital, represented by 161,358,287 shares and the share premiums amounted to EUR 653.1 million and EUR 3,825.3 million respectively.

On 25 April 2007, GBL shareholders collected a gross dividend of EUR 1.90 per share (EUR 1.72 in 2006).

On 30 June 2007, GBL held 5,261,451 treasury shares (as against 5,272,701 on 31 December 2006).

# 8.2. Calculation of result per share

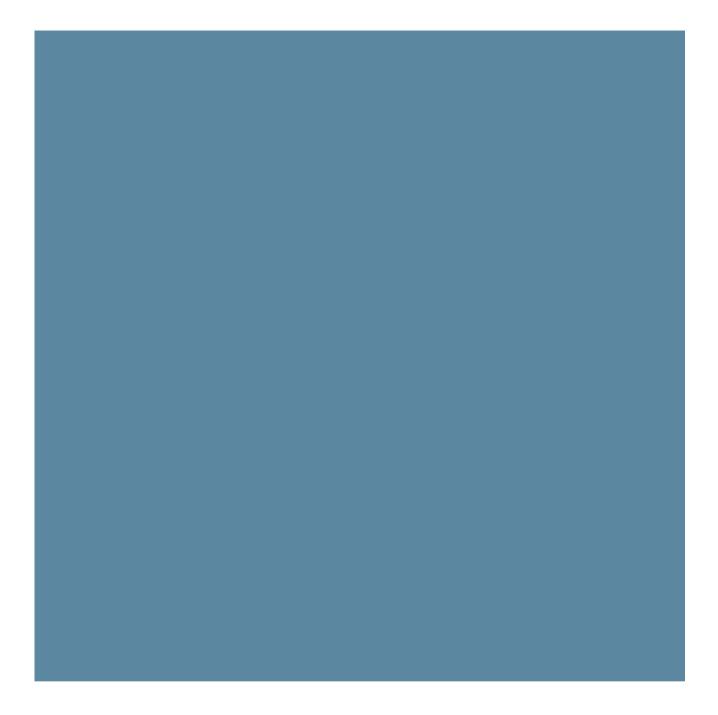
Consolidated results		
EUR million	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
	00 000 =007	
Basic	458.1	2,718.3
Non-discontinued operations	458.1	231.3
Discontinued operations	-	2,487.0
Diluted	466.0	2,726.1
Non-discontinued operations	466.0	239.1
Discontinued operations		2,487.0
Number of shares	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Outstanding shares	147,167,666	138,300,053
Treasury shares at start of year	(5,272,701)	(5,382,726)
Weighted changes during the year	3,900	3,072,323
Weighted average number of shares used to determine basic result per share	141,898,865	135,989,650
Influence of financial instruments with diluting effect:		
Exchangeable loans	5,085,340	5,000,000
Stock options	242,910	254,465
Weighted average number of shares used to determine diluted result per share	147,227,115	141,244,115

The issue of 14,190,621 shares as part of the capital increase in early July will have an impact from the second half of this year on the average number of shares used to calculate earnings per share.

The share issue, moreover, triggered an adjustment as from 30 June 2007 in the number of GBL shares to be delivered as part of the exchangeable bond issue 2005–2012 and the GBL 1999 option plan, pursuant to anti-dilution clauses. The number of GBL shares to be delivered in case of exercise by holders of GBL bonds or options amounts to 5,085,340 and 242,910 respectively.

In addition, 110,258 options on shares have been issued in 2007 to Executive Management and personnel. Beneficiaries will have definitive entitlement to the options, which are valid for 10 years, three years after the date of the offer, at the rate of one third per year. The exercise price has been set at EUR 91.90 per option. This new profit-sharing scheme has no impact on the consolidated accounts as of 30 June 2007.

Summary of the result per share		
In EUR	30 June 2007	30 June 2006
Basic	3.23	19.99
Non-discontinued operations	3.23	1.70
Discontinued operations	-	18.29
Diluted	3.17	19.30
Non-discontinued operations	3.17	1.69
Discontinued operations	-	17.61



Dit halfjaarverslag is ook verkrijgbaar in het Nederlands Ce rapport semestriel est également disponible en français

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