



PRESS RELEASE

## First-Half 2008 Financial Report

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### Sustained sales growth while consolidating profitability Operating income before non-recurring items up 7.6%

**(Marcy l'Etoile, France – September 8, 2008)** – bioMérieux (Euronext: BIM), a global leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, today released its interim financial report for the first six months of 2008.

CONSOLIDATED DATA in € millions	H1-2008	H1-2007	% change
Net sales	<b>528.2</b>	518.1	+1.9%
Gross profit	<b>286.4</b>	273.3	+4.8%
Operating income before non-recurring items	<b>84.0</b>	78.1	+7.6%
Net income of consolidated companies	<b>56.5</b>	53.4	+5.8%

"Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all our employees, bioMérieux's first-half performance was in line with objectives," said Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel. "The Company drove a solid increase in sales while consolidating profitability. We also continued to deploy our strategic plan with the development of full microbiology lab automation solutions, the acquisition of AB BIODISK, the signing of four business development agreements and the creation of two joint ventures in Japan and China."

## FIRST-HALF OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

### ▪ New product launches

- **Full Microbiology Lab Automation™ concept unveiled:** at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in April and the General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in June, bioMérieux unveiled three new solutions designed to fully automate microbiology lab workflow:

- PREVI™ Isola, an automated pre-poured media (PPM) streaker,
- PREVI™ Color Gram, an automated slide stainer,
- UF-1000i, a urinary screening platform.

In addition, in June, every bioMérieux customer was updated on the progress being made with a film on the new concept. It may be viewed at <http://www.biomerieux-diagnostics.com/fmla>.

- During the first half, 15 new reagents and 2 new software applications were brought to market, including:
  - **TEMPO® STA** and **TEMPO® LAB**, which expand the TEMPO® menu with the ability to enumerate coagulase-positive staphylococci (*S. aureus*) and Lactic Acid Bacteria, respectively, in food products,
  - **chromID™ Sakazakii** and **chromID™ Vibrio**, two innovative solutions for detecting food-borne pathogens,
  - AdvanDx Inc.'s **PNA FISH™** tests distributed in the United States under the exclusive agreement signed in May 2007. By enabling clinicians to make faster and more relevant antibiotic therapy decisions, these tests reduce hospital mortality and the costs associated with sepsis.

In addition, bioMérieux began marketing the **VIDAS® NT-proBNP** heart failure diagnosis test in the United States after receiving clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in March.

### ▪ Acquisitions

On June 18, bioMérieux increased its lead in microbiology by acquiring the Swedish diagnostics specialist **AB BIODISK**. The company is internationally recognized for its antimicrobial resistance testing range and particular expertise in susceptibility testing of fastidious and unusual organisms. It has 53 employees, reported sales of more than €13 million in 2007, and is very profitable. The company also offers commercial synergies with bioMérieux.

### ▪ Subsidiaries

In January, a marketing joint venture was created with **Sysmex Corporation**, a leader in the Japanese *in vitro* diagnostics market, to promote and distribute the entire bioMérieux product range in Japan. As part of the agreement, Sysmex acquired a 34% equity stake in bioMérieux Japan Ltd. on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The joint venture has been up and running since then, while the new sales team is starting to be trained in the bioMérieux product line.

In January, a Shanghai-based joint venture was set up with **Shanghai Kehua Bio-engineering**, the market leader in Chinese *in vitro* diagnostics. bioMérieux's microplate immunoassay manufacturing operations currently located in Boxtel, the Netherlands, will be transferred to the new company.

In March, a new subsidiary was opened in **Singapore** to provide regional support to the ASEAN countries, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The creation of the company's 38<sup>th</sup> subsidiary is a further demonstration of its commitment to expanding in Asia.

## ▪ Partnership agreements

In January, a strategic partnership was formed with **Quidel** Corporation in the area of rapid clinical diagnostics for the point-of-care. bioMérieux is now the exclusive distributor of all of Quidel's QuickVue® tests in all countries with the exception of the United States, Japan and Scandinavia, thereby enhancing its immunoassay offering. Sales of the tests under the bioMérieux brand began in May. In addition, Quidel and bioMérieux announced their intention to work together to develop new rapid tests.

In February, an agreement was signed with **Wescor**, an ELITech Group Company, by which bioMérieux will become Wescor's exclusive worldwide partner for marketing two customized slide stainer instruments for Gram and tuberculosis bacillus under the bioMérieux brand. The PREVI™ Color Gram slide stainer was introduced to bioMérieux customers.

In March, a long-term strategic partnership was formed with **Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation** of Japan to develop new microbiology and molecular diagnostic systems.

In May, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), a Swiss non-profit foundation, to bring together the partners' expertise in the development of new infectious disease diagnostics and to strengthen public health laboratory infrastructure in high-burden countries.

bioMérieux and **Exonhit Therapeutics** are pursuing their collaboration to discover blood-based cancer detection biomarkers, based on Exonhit's technology. Ongoing multicentric clinical studies of certain breast cancer markers have not yet confirmed the defined performance criteria and additional studies will be undertaken over the next 12 months. The two other programs concerning prostate and colorectal cancers are advancing as planned, with results expected in summer 2009.

## ▪ Disputes

On June 3, the Court of Cassation rejected the admissibility of the appeal filed by D.B.V. contesting the June 14, 2007 ruling by the Paris Court of Appeals, thereby bringing the dispute with D.B.V. in France to a close. In Spain, however, D.B.V. has appealed to the Court of Cassation the ruling by the Madrid Court of Appeals invalidating D.B.V.'s Spanish patent. As a result, legal proceedings are still pending in Spain and Italy. In light of these developments, the Company has reversed an additional €3 million from the corresponding provision for contingencies, which has been recognized in "other non-recurring operating income and expense."

## FIRST-HALF FINANCIAL REVIEW

### ▪ Sales

Net sales amounted to €528.2 million in the first half of 2008, an increase of 7.6% at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation (like-for-like) over the first six months of 2007. Including the 1.4% growth generated by the business development agreements, the increase amounted to 9%.

In the second quarter alone, net sales were up 9.1% like-for-like over the year-earlier period.

SALES BY REGION in € millions	H1 2008	H1 2007	% change	% change Like-for-like	Q2 2008	Q2 2007	% change	% change Like-for-like
Europe <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>326.8</b>	303.4	+7.7%	<b>+8.1%</b>	<b>168.2</b>	152.1	+10.5%	<b>+11.0%</b>
North America	<b>109.2</b>	128.5	-15.0%	<b>+1.6%</b>	<b>53.6</b>	64.7	-17.2%	<b>-0.3%</b>
Asia-Pacific	<b>57.4</b>	55.3	+3.9%	<b>+12.7%</b>	<b>30.3</b>	29.7	+2.2%	<b>+12.9%</b>
Latin America	<b>34.8</b>	30.9	+12.5%	<b>+17.6%</b>	<b>18.7</b>	16.3	+14.2%	<b>+20.1%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>528.2</b>	518.1	+1.9%	<b>+7.6%</b>	<b>270.8</b>	262.8	+3.0%	<b>+9.1%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Including the Middle East and Africa

Including the currency effect and the impact of divested or discontinued operations, net sales amounted to €528.2 million.

CHANGE IN NET SALES		
in € millions		
First-half 2007 net sales	518	
Impact of divested operations <sup>(1)</sup> or discontinued operations <sup>(2)</sup>	(12)	
<b>First-half 2007 net sales excluding divested or discontinued operations</b>	<b>506</b>	
Currency effect	(25)	
Like-for-like growth, at constant exchange rates and scope of consolidation	39	+7.6%
Impact of 2007 and 2008 acquisitions and distribution agreements	7	+1.4%
Residual sales from divested operations <sup>(1)</sup> or discontinued operations <sup>(2)</sup>	1	
<b>First-half 2008 net sales</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>+9%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Hemostasis business

<sup>(2)</sup> Microplate immunoassays in North America

Geographically, like-for-like sales may be analyzed as follows:

- o Sales in the **Europe - Middle East - Africa region**, which accounted for 62% of consolidated business, increased by 8.1% over the period. Excluding France, sales rose by 10% owing to a strong performance in such important markets as Germany (up 15%), the Middle East and Africa region, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Sales in France, representing 17% of the consolidated total, rose 3.6%.

In clinical applications, growth was led by microbiology (especially VITEK<sup>®</sup> 2), molecular biology and VIDAS<sup>®</sup> reagents, which were buoyed by the success of high medical value tests (notably VIDAS<sup>®</sup> B.R.A.H.M.S PCT and VIDAS<sup>®</sup> NT-pro BNP). Sales of industrial applications increased 9.4% over the period.

- o In **North America** (21% of the consolidated total), sales rose by just 1.6%. This temporary slowdown, which affected both clinical and industrial applications, was due to the complete reorganization of the sales force during the period, as new sales representatives were hired and teams were redeployed to improve coverage of the North American market. Furthermore, in light of economic conditions, customers took longer to make investment decisions. In this context, instrument sales contracted 20% compared with first-half 2007, when they grew by 24%.

Despite the marketing drive underway since the beginning of the year, instrument sales are expected to continue to suffer in the **third quarter**, primarily as a result of the worsening economy.

- o In the **Asia-Pacific region** (11% of the consolidated total), sales rose 12.7%, with China (up 21%) and South Korea (up 18%) making significant contributions to the strong performance. Sales in Japan rose 5%, led by industrial applications.

In clinical applications, the microbiology lines and the VIDAS<sup>®</sup> range reported solid results, while competition remained extremely aggressive in the microplate segment. Sales of industrial applications rose 22%.

- o In **Latin America** (6% of the consolidated total), business remained robust across the region, driving a nearly 18% increase in sales.

In the clinical segment, microbiology sales increased at a sustained pace. Growth in industrial applications remained strong.

In all, **clinical applications** gained 7.2% like-for-like (8.5% in the second quarter), while **industrial applications** rose 10% (12.5% in the second quarter).

NET SALES BY TECHNOLOGY in € millions	H1 2008	H1 2007	% change	% change Like-for-like
<b>Clinical Applications</b>	<b>450.0</b>	444.6	+1.2%	<b>+7.2%</b>
Microbiology	<b>263.9</b>	258.4	+2.1%	+6.5%
Immunoassays	<b>149.6</b>	143.3	+4.4%	+6.9%
Molecular biology	<b>25.8</b>	21.8	+18.3%	+15.7%
Other lines	<b>10.7</b>	21.1	-49.3%	+13.3%
<b>Industrial Applications</b>	<b>78.2</b>	73.5	+6.4%	<b>+10.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>528.2</b>	518.1	+1.9%	<b>+7.6%</b>

- o In **clinical applications**, reagent sales rose 9%. Microbiology sales were up 6.5%, led by VITEK<sup>®</sup> and culture media. Faster growth was reported in immunoassays (up 6.9%), thanks mainly to the VIDAS<sup>®</sup> line, which benefited from the success of the VIDAS<sup>®</sup> B.R.A.H.M.S PCT and VIDAS<sup>®</sup> NT-proBNP tests. The molecular biology business increased by nearly 16%, owing to rapid growth in reagent sales in Europe and South Africa.
- o **Industrial applications** reported 10% growth for the period, led by strong sales in both the agri-food and pharmaceutical segments. All of the product ranges reported gains, particularly VIDAS<sup>®</sup> and TEMPO<sup>®</sup>.
- o 1,900 new instruments were placed during the half, increasing the **installed base** to more than 51,000 systems.

## ▪ Statement of income

**Gross profit** came to €286 million for the first-half, a nearly 5% increase led by the growth in business and the greater proportion of reagent sales in the revenue stream (84.8% versus 83.7% in first-half 2007). Higher **oil prices** had no impact on the cost of the plastic inputs used in reagent manufacturing, since prices for the corresponding resins remained stable over the period. However, they did feed through to a €1.6 million increase in transportation and energy costs. Royalty payments rose sharply, but the increase was offset by the rising sales of high medical value tests. In this context, gross margin widened to 54.2% of sales from 52.8% in first-half 2007.

- o **Selling, general and administrative expenses** rose to 27% of sales from 26.2% in first-half 2007, including the costs of hiring new sales representatives in North America, starting up new subsidiaries and launching the global SAP ERP project.
- o **Research and development expenses** amounted to €66 million, or 12.6% of sales.
- o **Royalties from the patent portfolio** stood at €6 million, unchanged from the prior-year period as payments of new contract fees offset the expected decrease in part of the Becton Dickinson royalties.

**Operating income before non-recurring items** rose by 7.6% to €84 million, representing 15.9% of sales. Excluding the currency effect on sales, the margin would have been 15.2%, compared with 15.1% in first-half 2007.

At €84.7 million, **operating income** was up 8.2% for the period, lifted by the €3 million reversal of part of the provision on the D.B.V. dispute.

- o **Net financial expense** amounted to €2 million in first-half 2008, compared with financial income of €3.5 million in first-half 2007, which included the €3 million capital gain realized on the sale of the Company's 4% stake in OPi.

- **Income tax expense** declined by €2.1 million to €25.7 million, primarily due to the increase in the percentage tax credit on eligible research expenditure in France.

In light of the above, **net income** rose by 5.8% to €56.5 million, and amounted to 10.7% of sales, versus 10.3% in first-half 2007.

## ▪ **Statement of changes in net debt**

**Net debt** stood at €62 million at June 30, 2008, compared with €28 million a year earlier. Cash outflows during the first half included €68 million to acquire new companies and €30 million in dividends. Excluding these outflows, cash generated during the period would have amounted to €28 million, versus €23 million in first-half 2007:

- **Cash flow from operations before interest and income tax expense** rose by €4 million to €121 million.
- **Operating working capital requirement** rose by €26 million, or €6 million less than the €32 million increase recorded in first-half 2007.
- **Capital expenditure** was similar to the prior-year period, totaling €46 million, of which €20 million for installed instruments. Capital expenditure should rise in 2009 and 2010 due to a need for increased manufacturing capacities driven by sales growth. The transfer of activities linked to the Boxtel site closure, as well as the global ERP project, will result in non-recurring expenditures of €60 million spread over the two years.

## **2008 OBJECTIVES**

In light of the sustained growth in consolidated sales and the improvement in profitability, and taking into account the recent acquisition of AB BIODISK, bioMérieux has confirmed its **objectives for 2008**:

- Like-for-like growth in sales ranging from the 7.4% (like-for-like growth reported in 2007) to 9% including the business development agreements.
- An operating margin before non-recurring items close to the 15.7% reported in 2007 (at constant exchange rates).

## **NEXT FINANCIAL PRESS RELEASE**

October 28, 2008: Third-quarter sales

*The above forward-looking statements are based, entirely or partially, on assessments or judgments that may change or be modified, due to uncertainties and risks related to the Company's economic, financial, regulatory and competitive environment, notably those described in the 2007 Reference Document. Accordingly, the Company cannot give any assurance nor make any representation as to whether the above objectives will be met. The Company does not undertake to update or otherwise revise any forecasts or objectives presented herein, except in compliance with the disclosure obligations applicable to companies whose shares are listed on a stock exchange.*

## ABOUT BIOMÉRIEUX

*Advancing diagnostics to improve public health*

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for over 45 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 38 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2007, revenues reached €1,063 billion with 84% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Our products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cardiovascular emergencies and cancer screening and monitoring. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris market (Symbol: BIM – ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at [www.biomerieux.com](http://www.biomerieux.com).

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**bioMérieux**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT**

<i>In millions of euros</i>	<b>JAN 08 - JUN 08</b>	<b>JAN 07 - DEC 07</b>	<b>JAN 07 - JUN 07</b>
<b>NET SALES</b>	<b>528,2</b>	<b>1 062,8</b>	<b>518,1</b>
COST OF SALES	-241,8	-497,0	-244,8
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>286,4</b>	<b>565,8</b>	<b>273,3</b>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	6,0	10,6	5,9
SELLING AND MARKETING EXPENSES	-96,1	-189,3	-93,8
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	-46,3	-88,3	-41,8
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES	-66,0	-131,8	-65,5
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>-208,4</b>	<b>-409,4</b>	<b>-201,1</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME BEFORE NON-RECURRING ITEMS</b>	<b>84,0</b>	<b>167,0</b>	<b>78,1</b>
OTHER NON-RECURRING INCOMES (EXPENSES)	0,7	-17,1	0,3
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>84,7</b>	<b>149,9</b>	<b>78,4</b>
COST OF NET FINANCIAL DEBT	-0,7	0,0	0,4
OTHER FINANCIAL ITEMS	-1,3	4,7	3,1
INCOME TAX	-25,7	-55,1	-27,8
INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATES	-0,5	-1,4	-0,7
<b>NET INCOME OF CONSOLIDATED COMPANIES</b>	<b>56,5</b>	<b>98,1</b>	<b>53,4</b>
ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MINORITY INTERESTS	0,2	0,1	0,1
<b>ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PARENT COMPANY</b>	<b>56,3</b>	<b>98,0</b>	<b>53,3</b>
NET INCOME PER SHARE (a)	1,43	2,48	1,35

(a) In the absence of dilutive instruments, diluted net income per share is identical to basic net income per share



**bioMérieux**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**

<b>ASSETS</b> <i>In millions of euros</i>	<b>NET</b> <b>06/30/2008</b>	<b>NET</b> <b>12/31/2007</b>	<b>NET</b> <b>06/30/2006</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
. Intangible assets	42,7	42,8	31,5
. Goodwill	138,5	76,9	76,3
. Property, plant and equipment	279,5	284,3	284,6
. Financial assets	16,2	17,8	14,7
. Investments in associates	2,3	3,1	4,1
. Other non-current assets	19,9	21,7	20,2
. Deferred tax assets	22,7	20,1	23,0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>521,8</b>	<b>466,7</b>	<b>454,4</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
. Inventories and work in progress	155,5	145,8	157,0
. Accounts receivable	304,5	293,6	292,0
. Other operating receivables	31,9	23,8	27,5
. Non-operating receivables	8,2	14,0	7,5
. Cash and cash equivalents	32,2	54,5	26,0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>532,3</b>	<b>531,7</b>	<b>510,0</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1 054,1</b>	<b>998,4</b>	<b>964,4</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>06/30/2008</b>	<b>12/31/2007</b>	<b>06/30/2006</b>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>			
. Share capital	12,0	12,0	12,0
. Additional paid-in capital	63,7	63,7	63,7
. Retained earnings	521,1	458,9	456,4
. Other comprehensive income	1,3	0,6	-0,1
. Translation reserve	-51,1	-32,3	-9,8
. Net income for the year	56,3	98,0	53,3
<b>TOTAL EQUITY BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS</b>	<b>603,3</b>	<b>600,9</b>	<b>575,5</b>
<b>MINORITY INTERESTS</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,4</b>
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>604,2</b>	<b>601,3</b>	<b>575,9</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
. Net financial debt - long-term	19,6	18,2	17,9
. Deferred tax liabilities	12,8	12,8	8,2
. Provisions	53,7	71,4	62,2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,1</b>	<b>102,4</b>	<b>88,3</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
. Net financial debt - short-term	74,6	21,3	36,4
. Provisions	22,3	7,5	13,1
. Accounts payable	105,9	98,1	94,8
. Other operating liabilities	139,3	140,6	129,5
. Tax liabilities	16,9	12,3	14,6
. Non-operating liabilities	4,8	14,9	11,8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>363,8</b>	<b>294,7</b>	<b>300,2</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>1 054,1</b>	<b>998,4</b>	<b>964,4</b>

**bioMérieux**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL DEBT**

<i>In millions of euros</i>	<b>jan 08-jun 08 6 months</b>	<b>jan 07-dec 07 12 months</b>	<b>jan 07-jun 07 6 months</b>
Net income of consolidated companies	56,5	98,1	53,4
Net depreciation and provisions, and others	36,5	95,2	39,2
(Increase) / Decrease in fair value of derivatives	0,0	-1,1	-0,5
Net realized capital gains (losses)	-1,7	-3,5	-0,6
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>91,3</b>	<b>188,7</b>	<b>91,5</b>
Cost of net financial debt	0,7	0,0	-0,4
Current income tax expense	29,1	48,9	25,9
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before cost of net financial debt and income tax</b>	<b>121,1</b>	<b>237,6</b>	<b>117,0</b>
Increase in inventories	-11,5	-1,4	-12,9
Increase requirements in accounts receivable	-15,8	-18,2	-11,5
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable and other operating working capital	1,8	11,2	-7,2
<b>Decrease / (Increase) in operating working capital</b>	<b>-25,5</b>	<b>-8,4</b>	<b>-31,6</b>
Income tax paid	-16,8	-56,3	-23,7
Cost of net financial debt	-0,7	0,0	0,4
Other	0,0	0,4	0,9
(Increase) / Decrease in non-current assets	0,3	-2,3	0,9
<b>Decrease / (Increase) in working capital requirements</b>	<b>-42,7</b>	<b>-66,6</b>	<b>-53,1</b>
<b>Net cash flow from operations</b>	<b>78,4</b>	<b>171,0</b>	<b>63,9</b>
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-45,9	-89,7	-45,0
Proceeds on fixed asset disposals	2,7	8,0	3,5
Purchase of financial assets / Disposals of financial assets	-0,2	-1,1	2,5
Net cash from the sale of Hemostasis line of business	1,8	2,3	2,4
Impact of changes in the scope of consolidation	-64,5	-21,6	-10,3
Other investing cash flows	-1,8	-1,3	-0,3
<b>Net cash flow from (used in) investment activities</b>	<b>-107,9</b>	<b>-103,4</b>	<b>-47,2</b>
Purchases and proceeds of treasury stocks	-10,6	-5,0	-3,6
Dividends to bioMérieux SA shareholders	-29,8	-29,9	-29,9
<b>Net cash flow from (used in) shareholders' equity</b>	<b>-40,4</b>	<b>-34,9</b>	<b>-33,5</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL DEBT</b>	<b>-69,9</b>	<b>32,7</b>	<b>-16,8</b>
<b>ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL DEBT</b>			
Net financial debt at the beginning of the year	-15,0	10,5	10,5
Impact of currency changes on net financial debt	7,1	7,2	1,0
<b>Change in net financial debt:</b>	<b>69,9</b>	<b>-32,7</b>	<b>16,8</b>
- <i>Confirmed facilities</i>	47,3	2,5	2,2
- <i>Cash and other bank deposits</i>	22,6	-35,2	14,6
<b>Net financial debt at the end of the year</b>	<b>62,0</b>	<b>-15,0</b>	<b>28,3</b>