



Press release

Paris - August 30, 2013

Fromageries Bel First-Half 2013 Results

- Robust sales growth observed in second quarter
- Operating income advanced in the first six months of the year
- Higher raw material prices expected to have a strong impact in H2 2013

Key figures

<i>in millions of euros</i>	First-half 2013	First-half 2012	% change
Sales	1,321	1,297	+1.9%
Operating income	134	104	+29.4%
Consolidated net profit - Group share	91	62	+46.4%

In the first half of 2013, the Group's consolidated sales totaled €1,321 million, up 1.9% on a published basis versus the prior-year period. Excluding a negative 1.9% impact from foreign exchange fluctuations, sales grew organically 3.8% in the first six months of the year. There was no change in the consolidation scope during the period.

After remaining steady overall in the first quarter, sales advanced 4.7% on a published basis in the second quarter, with positive growth indicators for all regions. Q2 sales increased 7.1% organically, with growth fuelled by the Group's core brands, including The Laughing Cow®, Kiri®, Mini Babybel®, Leerdammer®, and Boursin®.

By geographical region, the sales trend was as follows:

<i>(in millions of euros)</i>	Second quarter			First half		
	2013	2012	%	2013	2012	%
	3 months	3 months	change	6 months	6 months	change
Western Europe	265	261	1.7%	514	516	- 0.3%
North East Europe	148	131	12.9%	291	273	6.6%
Americas, Asia-Pacific	104	97	7.0%	197	188	5.0%
Greater Africa	69	68	1.7%	138	132	4.7%
Near and Middle East	94	92	1.5%	181	188	- 3.9%
Total	680	649	4.7%	1,321	1,297	1.9%

Sales in Western Europe showed resilience in the first half thanks to a strong promotional effort to help consumer spending impacted by a tough economic environment.

Buoyant growth in North East Europe was driven by product vetting at new retailers and the commercial success of processed cheese in Ukraine.

Excluding foreign exchange fluctuations, the Greater Africa region reported another good sales performance, while the strong sales momentum continued apace in the Americas, Asia-Pacific region.

Sales in the Near and Middle East region remained affected by a very troublesome geopolitical environment in certain countries. However, excluding the negative impact of currency fluctuations, first-half 2013 sales in the region grew 3.2% organically, a remarkable performance given the environment.

Group operating income increased 29.4% to €134 million, versus €104 million in H1 2012.

This performance resulted from the growth and strengthened weight of core brand sales and lower costs, notably in manufacturing. Further, the Group continued to benefit from efforts to streamline the management and allocation of its advertising and promotion spending.

After financial expense and income tax expense, consolidated net profit, Group share, totaled €91 million, up 46.4% over the €62 million reported in H1 2012.

At June 30, 2013, the Group's net financial debt totaled €128 million, up €64 million over December 31, 2012, under the combined effect of higher capital spending and working capital requirement.

After issuing a €160-million bond and successfully completing initial issues of commercial paper totaling €100 million in 2012, the Group on June 28 closed the issuance of a multi-currency, multi-tranches "Schuldschein" bond, of which €140 million was subscribed by European institutional investors and \$110 million was subscribed by international investors. These issues are designed to accommodate the Group's growth, diversify its funding sources and improve the maturity of its net financial debt.

Outlook for 2013

The Group is still facing a tough economic environment, particularly in Europe and a very uncertain geopolitical context in markets in the Near and Middle East region. In addition, dairy prices in Europe and dairy raw material prices in international markets rose sharply in the second quarter of the year. The full impact of these price increases will be felt in the cost price in the second half of the year.

Under these conditions, the Group expects its operating margin to decline in H2 2013.

The Group, however, hopes to continue growing its business, particularly in international markets.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. Such trend and/or target information should in no way be regarded as earnings forecast data or performance indicators of any kind. This information is by nature subject to risks and uncertainties that may be beyond the Company's control. A detailed description of these risks and uncertainties is provided in the Company's Registration Document, available at (www.groupe-bel.com). More comprehensive information about the Bel Group can be found in the "Regulatory Information" section of the www.groupe-bel.com website.

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Bel Group

The Bel Group is a world leader in branded cheese.

Its portfolio of differentiated and internationally recognized brands, including such products as The Laughing Cow®, Kiri®, Mini Babybel®, Leerdammer®, and Boursin®, as well as some 20 local brands, enabled the Group to generate sales of €2.6 billion in 2012.

Around 11 000 employees in some 30 subsidiaries around the world contribute to the Group's success.

Its products are prepared at 27 production sites and distributed in over 120 countries.

www.bel-group.com