

Paris, April 14th 2009

## **Groupe Danone and Wadia Group conclude their existing joint venture relationships**

Danone and Wadia Group today agreed to end their existing joint venture relationships in India. This will enable Danone to pursue its business interests in India independently.

As part of this agreement, Danone has sold its 50% interest in ABI Holdings Limited (held through Britannia Brands Limited) to Wadia Group. ABI Holdings Limited holds an effective 50.96% interest in Britannia Industries Limited, a leading bakery company in India. This agreement also sees an end to the intellectual property dispute over the Tiger brand between Danone and Britannia. By concluding this agreement, Groupe Danone is pursuing its strategy of divesting its biscuit activities and concentrating on its four strategic business lines.

For the Wadia Group, the agreement constitutes a significant strengthening of its position within Britannia, a company that is a model of profitable growth.

Both groups intend to take this opportunity strongly to develop its presence in the strategic Indian market.

Commenting on the transaction, Franck Riboud, Chief Executive Officer of Groupe Danone stated: "13 years of collaboration between the Wadia Group and Groupe Danone in Britannia helped to build a strong and respected leader in the Indian biscuits industry. We are fully confident that Britannia will continue to be highly successful under the Wadia Group's guidance in the future. Danone is more keen than ever to contribute to the development of the healthy food market by implementing Danone brands in India in the coming years."

Mr. Nusli N Wadia, Chairman of Britannia Industries said: "Wadia Group is pleased with this acquisition. Over the last 9 decades, Britannia has created a rich heritage of brands and a strong corporate reputation which has seen several ownership changes. In the last few years, the trajectory of investment and growth has accelerated, making Britannia one of the fastest growing companies in India. The Company is led and managed by a competent team of professionals, who will constantly explore profitable growth opportunities in food - both in India and overseas."

## **About DANONE**

Groupe DANONE is a Fortune 500 company and one of the most successful healthy food companies in the world. Its mission is to bring health through tasty, nutritious and affordable food and beverage products to as many people as possible. Fulfilling this mission is a major contributor to the Groupe's continuous fast growth. Groupe DANONE with 160 plants and around 80,000 employees has a presence in all five continents and over 120 countries. In 2008, Groupe DANONE recorded € 15.2 billion sales.

Groupe DANONE enjoys leading positions on healthy food in four businesses: fresh dairy products (n°1 worldwide), waters (n°2 on the packaged water mark et), baby nutrition (n°2 worldwide) and medical nutrition. Listed on Euronext Paris, Groupe DANONE is also ranked among the main index of social responsibility: Dow Jones Sustainability Index Stoxx and World, ASPI Eurozone and Ethibel Sustainability index.