

Press Release

Sperian Protection: Financial information for the third quarter of 2009

- Some encouraging signs in third quarter business trends
- Revenue decline slowed in the third quarter (-7.1%) compared with 1st half 2009 (-13.6%)

Paris, October 20, 2009

Sperian Protection, the leader of reference in personal protective equipment (PPE), today announced its consolidated revenue for the third quarter and first nine months of 2009.

- **Third-quarter revenue**

Revenue for the third quarter of 2009 amounted to €162.4 million, down from €174.8 million in the third quarter of 2008. The revenue decline was contained to 7.1% against the challenging backdrop of the economic crisis, and represents an improvement compared with the 13.6% revenue decline reported for the 1st half of 2009

The acquisitions (Combisafe consolidated for two months and Musitani) accounted for 2.7% this quarter, and currency effects had positive impact of 1% during the quarter.

<i>in millions of Euros</i>	Q3 2009	Q3 2008	Q3	
			total change	change excl. acquisitions & fx fluctuations
Total Revenue	162.4	174.8	-7.1%	-10.9%
Head protection	91.7	87.5	4.7%	2.7%
Body protection	70.7	87.2	-18.9%	-22.7%
Americas	69.9	80.2	-12.8%	-16.7%
Europe, Middle-East, Africa	79.8	81.6	-2.1%	-4.7%
Asia-Pacific	12.6	13.0	-2.9%	-5.8%

During the third quarter, respiratory protection was the only business line to post positive growth. This encouraging trend was underpinned by sales of single-use masks in Europe and by deliveries of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) systems for firefighters in California (USA). As a result, the head protection segment reported growth during the quarter.

Some additional encouraging signs were observed during the quarter, particularly in hearing protection and in certain fall protection product lines. Trends at other businesses were fairly close to those observed during the first half of 2009.

In geographic terms, the EMEA and Asia-Pacific regions posted improvements in comparison with the first two quarters of 2009, while trends in the Americas were in line with those of the second quarter.

Press Release

▪ Revenue for the first nine months of the year

Revenue for the first nine months of 2009 amounted to €489.3 million, a decline of 11.5% compared with the same period of 2008. Recent acquisitions (Combisafe and Musitani) contributed approximately €18 million to revenue in the first nine months of the year. In addition, the strengthening of the US dollar against the euro over the period contributed nearly €14 million.

<i>in millions of Euros</i>	9 months		9 months	
	2009	2008	total change	change excl. acquisitions & fx fluctuations
Total Revenue	489.3	553.1	-11.5%	-17.3%
Head protection	262.3	287.3	-8.7%	-12.5%
Body protection	227.0	265.8	-14.6%	-22.6%
Americas	210.0	249.5	-15.8%	-22.8%
Europe, Middle-East, Africa	244.4	266.4	-8.3%	-12.1%
Asia-Pacific	34.9	37.2	-6.2%	-10.0%

▪ Outlook

The Group's cost adaptation and transformation plans to boost competitiveness implemented efficiently by Sperian's teams have already generated tangible results. In addition, some macroeconomic encouraging signs have been observed during the third quarter of 2009 and inventory reduction should have a lower impact until the end of year. Thus, the Group believes the performance during the second half is likely to be better than it was during the first half of the year.

Brice de La Morandière, Chief Executive Officer of Sperian Protection, said: "Though it is still too early to talk about a rebound in business, all of our teams around the world are mobilized to bring adapted solutions to our customers and seize every opportunity for growth."

Sperian Protection is due to report its full-year 2009 revenue after the market closes on January 28, 2010.

About Sperian Protection

Sperian Protection is the reference leader in personal protective equipment (hearing, eye, respiratory and fall protection, gloves, clothing and footwear) resolutely geared towards international markets. The Group offers innovative products adapted to high-risk environments so that workers in the manufacturing and services industries can work with confidence.

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