

Casino initiates the process of becoming sole controlling shareholder of GPA in Brazil

In preparation for the rearrangement of the corporate control of *Companhia Brasileira de Distribuição* ("GPA") on June 22, as provided in the shareholders' agreement of Wilkes Participações S.A. ("Wilkes", which directly controls GPA), Casino Guichard-Perrachon ("Casino") has today sent notice to Mr. Abilio Diniz informing him of its decision to exercise the right to appoint the chairman of Wilkes' Board of Directors.

Casino's decision to exercise this contractual right will result in Casino becoming GPA's sole controlling shareholder, as provided in the Wilkes' shareholders' agreement.

With this step Casino demonstrates once again its long term commitment to Brazil and its full confidence in GPA's bright future and in GPA's outstanding management team.

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