

Press Release

Sperian Protection reports 1st quarter 2010 financial information

Paris, 28 April 2010,

Sperian Protection, reference leader in personal protective equipment (PPE), today announces its consolidated revenue for the 1st quarter of 2010. Revenue in the period stood at €173.8 million, which represents organic growth of 16% compared to the 1st quarter of 2009 (€153.1 million).

Organic growth during the 1st quarter of 2010 reflects mainly a favorable basis of comparison with the year-earlier performance. The 1st quarter of 2009 showed an organic decline of -24.6% compared to same period in 2008, as distributors significantly reduced their inventory and adapted their activity to lower demand from end-customers, starting from the beginning of 2009.

<i>in millions of Euros</i>	Q1 2010	Q1 2009	Total change	Change excl. perimeter & fx Fluctuations*
Consolidated Revenue	173.8	153.1	13.6%	16.0%
Head protection	96.5	75.4	27.9%	30.1%
Body protection	77.3	77.6	-0.4%	2.0%
Americas	72.8	63.3	15.0%	20.5%
Europe, Middle East, Africa	89.5	80.0	11.9%	13.0%
Asia-Pacific	11.5	9.8	17.4%	10.5%
<i>o/w Image wear business (divested in Nov. 09)</i>		1.4		

* 2010 sales figures at 2009 rates

The head protection businesses reported organic growth of 30.1% during the 1st quarter compared to the same period of 2009. This performance primarily reflects the low level of activity in 2009; in addition, in the 1st quarter of 2010 the disposable respiratory masks business still benefited from the final deliveries for the French government contract. Other business lines (hearing and eye protection) also reported organic growth; however, it was less significant and leading to a lower level of sales than 2008.

The body protection businesses reported lower growth (2% organic growth), as product rationalization in the gloves activity negatively impacted the quarter. The fall protection activity increased only slightly, mainly because of the crisis in the construction market, while the footwear business was more dynamic.

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Growth in the 1st quarter 2010 was more significant in the Americas (+20.5%) than in the two other geographical areas. In 2009 indeed, the economic crisis impacted more quickly and deeply the Americas than Europe and Asia-Pacific.

The Group confirms its 2010 outlook, which is based on a recovery in organic sales growth and an improvement in operating margin.

In addition, on March 31, 2010, Sperian Protection's Board of Directors met under Mr. Henri-Dominique Petit's chairmanship to learn about the terms and conditions of the contemplated voluntary public tender offer that Menelas France SAS, a company 100% held by Cinven, an investment fund, intends to launch on Sperian Protection's shares.

Sperian Protection will report its 1st half 2010 revenue after the market closes on July 21, 2010.

About Sperian Protection

Sperian Protection, reference leader in personal protective equipment (hearing, eye, respiratory and fall protection, gloves, clothing and footwear) is 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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