

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

Public limited company with Board of Directors, with a capital of 204 225 819.25 Euros.  
Head Office: 4, Quai de la Mégisserie – F-75001 PARIS  
Registration 377 913 728 Paris  
Fiscal year from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>



## **Vilmorin announces that its principal shareholder supports its considered share capital increase by way of a subscription commitment of €150 million**

Further to the announcement, on February 24, 2010, of its proposed share capital increase with maintenance of preferential subscription rights for a total amount of approximately €200 million, Vilmorin specifies that its principal shareholder has expressed its intent to support this transaction.

If the share capital increase is launched, Groupe Limagrain Holding (GLH), held by the Limagrain cooperative, would therefore commit to participate in this transaction for an amount of €150 million.

This support is part of the long-term partnership between GLH and Fonds Stratégique d'Investissement (FSI), including, *inter alia*, an investment to be made by FSI in GLH for an amount of €150 million, in accordance with the terms of the press release issued jointly by FSI and GLH on the date hereof.

It is reminded that this share capital increase would be aimed at strengthening Vilmorin's shareholders' equity in order to provide Vilmorin with the financial means to accelerate its development and make its way toward a transformational change. For Vilmorin the purpose would be to contribute to financing its organic growth strategy (new types of seeds and new technologies) as well as its external growth, through targeted international acquisitions (in particular in Asia), both in the vegetable and field markets.

***"By supporting our transaction, Limagrain confirms its commitment to accompany Vilmorin's development in a long-term, pro-active vision. The agreement entered into between Groupe Limagrain Holding and FSI reflects the recognition of Vilmorin's expertise and assets. This investment occurs at a decisive time of the company's acceleration of growth, as it is making its way toward a transformational change ", said Adrian Huige, Vilmorin's CEO.***

The upcoming launch of the share capital increase remains subject to market conditions, as well as to the receipt of the *Visa* of the French financial markets authority (*Autorité des marchés financiers*) with respect to the French Prospectus relating to this issuance.

Vilmorin has appointed Natixis and Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking to accompany it in its share capital increase.

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## COMING DISCLOSURES FOR 2009-2010

**Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 at the end of the day:** sales at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 at the end of the day:** sales for the fiscal year.

**Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the end of the day:** results for the fiscal year.



Vilmorin is the fourth largest seed company in the world, and creates vegetable and field crops with high added value, thus helping to meet food needs more efficiently. Based on a responsible vision of its development, Vilmorin's strategy is a successful combination of its research capacity and constant international growth that strengthens its position as a world player. This ambition is founded on sharing knowledge, quality of life and respect for the needs of mankind, all expressed through its philosophy « **Cultivating the taste of life** ».

*Listed on NYSE Euronext Paris (compartment B), Vilmorin's quotation is included in the Next 150, CAC Mid 100 and SBF 120 indices, and is eligible for SRD (Deferred Settlement Order).  
ISIN code: FR0000052516 (RIN).*



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*This announcement does not, and shall not, in any circumstances, constitute a public offering nor an invitation to the public in any jurisdiction in connection with any offer.*

*More comprehensive information about Vilmorin & Cie ("Vilmorin") may be obtained on its Internet website ([www.vilmorin.info](http://www.vilmorin.info)), including its Document de Référence filed under n°D.09-0742 on November 6, 2009, with the Autorité des marchés financiers ("AMF") and its update of the Document de Référence filed under n° D.09-0742-A01 on February 24, 2010 (also available on the Internet website of the French Autorité des marchés financiers, [www.amf-france.org](http://www.amf-france.org)).*

*This press release contains certain forward-looking statements. Although Vilmorin believes its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, these forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements.*

*For a discussion of risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results, financial condition, performance or achievements of to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, please refer to the Risk Factors ("Facteurs de Risque") section of the Document de Référence and its update filed with the AMF.*

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