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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 July 2017

### RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION

OF

### BERENDSEN PLC

BY

**ELIS SA** 

## TO CREATE A PAN-EUROPEAN TEXTILE, HYGIENE AND FACILITY SERVICES LEADER

# Update on antitrust and regulatory approvals

Further to the announcement on 12 June 2017 pursuant to Rule 2.7 of the Code (the "Rule 2.7 Announcement") that the boards of Elis and Berendsen had reached agreement on the terms of a recommended acquisition by Elis of the entire issued and to be issued share capital of Berendsen (the "Transaction"), Elis and Berendsen confirm that:

- the FCA approval for the Transaction, and the merger control clearances for the Transaction in Germany and Poland, have been received by Elis; and
- based on the expected timetable of the Transaction, it is not expected that merger control clearance for the Transaction in Austria will be required.

The expected timetable of principal events for the Transaction will be set out in the Scheme Document, which will be posted to Berendsen Shareholders no later than 31 July 2017.

A further announcement will be made when the Scheme Document is posted to Berendsen Shareholders.

Capitalised terms used and not defined in this announcement have the meanings given to them in the Rule 2.7 Announcement.

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## **Further information**

Lazard & Co., Limited ("Lazard"), which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority, is acting exclusively as financial adviser to Elis and no one else in connection with the Transaction and will not be responsible to anyone other than Elis for providing the protections afforded to clients of Lazard & Co., Limited nor for providing advice in relation to the Transaction and matters referred to in this Announcement. Neither Lazard & Co., Limited nor any of its affiliates owes or accepts any duty, liability or responsibility whatsoever (whether direct or indirect, whether in contract, in tort, under statute or otherwise) to any person who is not a client of Lazard & Co., Limited in connection with the Transaction, this Announcement, any statement contained herein or otherwise.

Zaoui & Co Ltd ("Zaoui & Co") is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority. Zaoui & Co is acting exclusively as financial adviser for Elis and no one else in connection with the matters set out in this Announcement and will not regard

any other person as its client in relation to the matters in this Announcement and will not be responsible to anyone other than Elis for providing the protections afforded to clients of Zaoui & Co, nor for providing advice in relation to any matter referred to herein.

Deutsche Bank AG is authorised under German Banking Law (competent authority: European Central Bank) and, in France, by the *Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution*. It is subject to supervision by the European Central Bank and by BaFin, Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, and is subject to limited regulation in France by the AMF. Details about the extent of its authorisation and regulation by BaFin, the *Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution* and the AMF are available on request. Deutsche Bank is acting as financial adviser and corporate broker to Elis and no one else in connection with the Transaction or the contents of this Announcement and will not be responsible to anyone other than Elis for providing the protections afforded to clients of Deutsche Bank or for providing advice in relation to the Transaction or any other matters referred to herein.

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## Notice to US Investors

The New Elis Shares proposed to be allotted and issued to holders of Berendsen Shares in connection with the Transaction have not been and will not be registered under the US Securities Act or under the securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States. Accordingly, the New Elis Shares may not be offered, sold, resold, delivered, distributed or otherwise transferred, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States absent

registration under the US Securities Act or an exemption therefrom. This announcement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of the New Elis Shares in the United States or in any state of the United States in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to qualification under the securities laws of any such state. The New Elis Shares are expected to be issued in the United States in reliance upon the exemption from the registration requirements of the US Securities Act provided by Section 3(a)(10) thereof. Berendsen Shareholders (whether or not US persons) who are or will be affiliates (within the meaning of the US Securities Act) of Elis prior to or after the date on which the Transaction becomes effective will be subject to certain restrictions on transfers of the New Elis Shares received pursuant to the Transaction. Otherwise, the New Elis Shares generally should not be treated as "restricted securities" within the meaning of Rule 144(a)(3) under the US Securities Act and persons who receive securities under the Transaction (other than "affiliates" thereunder) may resell them without restriction under the US Securities Act.

None of the New Elis Shares have been approved or disapproved by the US Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission in the United States or any other US regulatory authority, nor have such authorities passed upon or determined the fairness or merits of such securities or upon the adequacy or accuracy of the information contained in this document. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offence in the United States.

## Disclosure requirements of the Code

Under Rule 8.3(a) of the Code, any person who is interested in 1 per cent. or more of any class of relevant securities of an offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror (being any offeror other than an offeror in respect of which it has been announced that its offer is, or is likely to be, solely in cash) must make an Opening Position Disclosure following the commencement of the offer period and, if later, following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. An Opening Position Disclosure must contain details of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s). An Opening Position Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(a) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the commencement of the offer period and, if appropriate, by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the 10th business day following the announcement in which any securities exchange offeror is first identified. Relevant persons who deal in the relevant securities of the offeree company or of a securities exchange offeror prior to the deadline for making an Opening Position Disclosure must instead make a Dealing Disclosure.

Under Rule 8.3(b) of the Code, any person who is, or becomes, interested in 1 per cent. or more of any class of relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror must make a Dealing Disclosure if the person deals in any relevant securities of the offeree company or of any securities exchange offeror. A Dealing Disclosure must contain details of the dealing concerned and of the person's interests and short positions in, and rights to subscribe for, any relevant securities of each of (i) the offeree company and (ii) any securities exchange offeror(s), save to the extent that these details have previously been disclosed under Rule 8. A Dealing Disclosure by a person to whom Rule 8.3(b) applies must be made by no later than 3.30 pm (London time) on the business day following the date of the relevant dealing.

If two or more persons act together pursuant to an agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, to acquire or control an interest in relevant securities of an offeree company or a securities exchange offeror, they will be deemed to be a single person for the purpose of Rule 8.3.

Opening Position Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company and by any offeror and Dealing Disclosures must also be made by the offeree company, by any offeror and by any persons acting in concert with any of them (see Rules 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4).

Details of the offeree and offeror companies in respect of whose relevant securities Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures must be made can be found in the Disclosure Table on the Takeover Panel's website at <a href="https://www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk">www.thetakeoverpanel.org.uk</a>, including details of the number of relevant securities in issue, when the offer period commenced and when any offeror was first identified. You should contact the Panel's Market Surveillance Unit on +44 (0)20 7638 0129 if you are in any doubt as to whether you are required to make an Opening Position Disclosure or a Dealing Disclosure.

### Publication on website

This announcement will be available on Elis' website (www.corporate-elis.com) and Berendsen's website (www.berendsen.com) by no later than 12 noon (London time) on [27] July 2017, but will not be available to persons in any jurisdiction where this would violate applicable law. For the avoidance of doubt, the content of such websites is not incorporated into and does not form part of this document.