



PRESS RELEASE

Consolidated net loss for the first half of 2009: -€14.8 million

Sales to 30th September 2009: -5.9%

Renegotiation of the bank debt

Paris, 13th November 2009:

Groupe VIAL (FR0010340406), France's independent industrial joinery discount group, announces its audited consolidated half-year results to 30th June 2009 and its sales for the 3rd quarter of 2009.

- Consolidated results for the 1st half of 2009**

<i>In millions of euros IFRS</i>	H1 2008	H1 2009	Δ (%)	Δ (€m)
Sales	53.8	52.2	-2%	-1.6
Gross margin	14.9	22.2	+49%	+7.3
Recurring operating profit / loss	-10.9	-4.3	N.S.	+6.6
Operating profit / loss	-11.1	-31.4	N.S.	-20.3
Net profit / loss	-8.8	-14.8	N.S.	-6.0

**The half-year financial report in French is available on Groupe VIAL's website:
www.groupe-vial.com, 'Documentation' / 'Rapports financiers'**

The economic and property environment remained morose over the period, with new housing starts tumbling more than 20%. Within this context, sales for the first half of 2009 totalled €52.2 million, slipping 3%.

The gross margin was €22.2 million, representing 42.5% of sales. Although it has yet to renew with the historic levels recorded prior to 2008, the Group has erased the negative effects of the industrial disruption of 2008 relating to the installation of the ERP system.

The current operating loss was €4.3 million, and notably includes a provision of €2.1 million for inventory depreciation.

The operating loss came to -€31.4 million, versus -€11.1 million for the first half of 2008. This substantial deterioration can be explained by goodwill depreciation of €27.6 million due to current market conditions, the Group's poor visibility on an upturn in the property market and the impairment tests carried out.

There was a financial profit of +€24.9 million, notably thanks to capital gains of €27.7 million recorded from the purchase by VIAL Holding of some of the OCEANE convertible bonds in March 2009.

Once a tax charge of €8.2 million is taken into account, the net loss for the first half of 2009 was -€14.8 million, versus -€8.8 million a year earlier.

- **Financial structure and debt**

<i>In millions of euros</i>		
<i>IFRS</i>	31.12.08	30.06.09
ASSETS		
Non-current assets	58.0	32.4
of which: goodwill	42.8	0
Current assets	131.5	112.3
Total	189.5	144.7
LIABILITIES		
Shareholders' equity	35.9	21.0
Non-current liabilities	116.6	13.3
Current portion of long-term financial debts and loans	8.3	84.0
Other current liabilities	28.7	26.4
Total	189.5	144.7

The acquisition of the Bolivian company in 2008 led to the inclusion of €15 million of goodwill in accounts. This figure was written down, over the first half 2009, as intangible assets consisting of stumpage fees and timber rights. Subsequently, this goodwill has zero value after allocation and depreciation.

Consolidated shareholders' equity at 30th June 2009 totalled €21 million, including the negative impact of first-half results, versus €36 million at 31st December 2008.

Because of the failure to meet some of the banking covenants at 30th June 2009, all of the long-term financial debt (€84 million) has been written down as current liabilities. This debt is thus deemed to be debt of less than a year.

Groupe VIAL is currently renegotiating its debt with its banking pool in order to ensure its future and its development.

- **Consolidated sales for the 3rd quarter of 2009**

<i>In millions of euros</i>				
<i>IFRS</i>	2008	2009	Δ (%)	Δ (€m)
1st quarter	25.6	24.4	-4.8%	-1.2
2nd quarter	28.2	27.8	-1.2%	-0.4
3rd quarter	26.1	23.0	-11.9%	-3.1
9-month total	79.9	75.2	-5.9%	-4.7

Consolidated sales for the third quarter to 30th September 2009 came to €23 million.

Over the first 9 months of the year, sales thus totalled €75.2 million, down 5.9% on 2008.

With no change in market conditions or the economic environment since last half, third-quarter sales were thus in line with first half sales.

About Groupe VIAL (www.groupe-vial.com)

Listed on Euronext Paris of NYSE Euronext since December 2006, Groupe VIAL manufactures and distributes aluminium, PVC and wood joinery products (doors, windows, gates, stairs, etc.) offering unparalleled value for money through tight control of supply lines; efficient, modern production facilities and its vast distribution network that consisted, at 30th June 2009, of 72 stores opened under the VIAL Menuiseries brand, including 6 in Spain and 1 in Portugal.

Public site: www.vial-menuiseries.com

Compartment C of Euronext Paris, a NYSE Euronext Group market
Reuters: **VIA.PA** - Bloomberg: **VIA FP**



Contacts

Groupe VIAL

Jean-François Buigues
Chief Financial Officer
investisseurs@groupe-vial.com

NewCap.

Financial Communications – Investor Relations
Steve Grobet / Pierre Laurent
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 71 94 94
Fax: +33 (0)1 44 71 94 90
vial@newcap.fr