



## **UNILEVER SOUTH CENTRAL EUROPE ACQUIRES DARKO OPERATIONS IN BULGARIA**

Sofia/Bucharest, August 8, 2011 - Unilever South Central Europe and Balkan Accession Fund announced today that they have signed an asset agreement under which Unilever South Central Europe will acquire from DARKO, a Bulgarian company ultimately owned by the Balkan Accession Fund, the ice cream brands, the distribution network (sales force) and the production unit. The value of the transaction is undisclosed.

Darko is the second largest ice cream company in Bulgaria, where it sells famous brands including Eskimo, Casablanca, Weekend, Magic Ice, Free, Belinda, Alaska, and Milka, both in impulse and take home categories. With the acquisition of Darko, Unilever South Central Europe will enter the ice cream market in Bulgaria.

Unilever South Central Europe's Chairman, Mr. Marc Desenfans, commented: "Darko is a valuable acquisition for us, having well known brands and a well-established position in the market. We will use the strength of the current business and Unilever's global leadership in this category to further consolidate our position in the Balkan region".

Darko's ice cream turnover in 2010 was €7 million (13.8 m BGN). As part of the agreement, approximately 80 employees will transfer to Unilever. Darko will retain its existing production staff and warehousing facilities and will manufacture the current Darko ice cream branded products for the Bulgarian market. The agreement is subject to regulatory approval by the Bulgarian competition authorities.

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### **About Unilever**

Unilever works to create a better future every day. We help people feel good, look good and get more out of life with brands and services that are good for them and good for others.

Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of fast moving consumer goods with strong operations in over 100 countries and sales in more than 180. Consumers buy 170bn Unilever packs around the world every year, and our products are used over two billion times a day.

Our portfolio includes some of the world's best known and most loved brands including twelve €1 billion brands, and global leadership in most categories in which we operate. The portfolio features iconic brands such as: Knorr, Dove, Lipton, Becel/Flora, Blue Band/Rama/Country Crock, Wall's/OLA/Langnese, Hellmann's, Calvé, Unox, Pond's, Lux, Axe/Lynx, Sunsilk, Vaseline, Rexona/Sure, Omo, Surf, Cif, Signal and Glorix/Domestos.



We have around 167,000 employees, and generated annual sales of €44.3 billion in 2010. For more information about Unilever and its brands, please visit [www.unilever.com](http://www.unilever.com)

Unilever is Food Industry Leader in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indexes for the 12th year running. We are included in the FTSE4Good Index Series and attained a top environmental score of 5, leading to inclusion in the FTSE4Good Environmental Leaders Europe 40 Index. We are also ranked 7th in the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World, a list compiled by Corporate Knights Magazine. We achieved Platinum Plus standard in the UK's Business in the Community Corporate Responsibility Index 2009, and were named Company of the Year in 2010. In November 2010, we launched the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan aiming to halve our overall environmental footprint.

### **Unilever in South Central Europe**

Unilever works to create a better future every day. We help people feel good, look good and get more out of life with brands and services that are good for them and good for others. Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of fast moving consumer goods with strong operations in over 100 countries and sales in more than 180. In South Central Europe, the Unilever group operates in the food, household and personal care sectors through Unilever South Central Europe and Unilever Romania. Unilever South Central Europe ensures, from Bucharest Head Office, the management of marketing and sales operations in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo; Unilever Romania operates the industrial platform in Ploiesti.

For more information about Unilever and its brands, please visit [www.unilever.ro](http://www.unilever.ro).

### **Algida - Unilever's ice cream sector in South Central Europe**

Unilever, global leader in ice cream, operates in the Romanian market under the Algida brand since 2009. Algida launched innovative and pioneering products, which were quickly established and created trends in the ice cream market. Among them the well-known brands Big Milk, Napoca, Cornetto, Carte D'Or, Magnum, Twister. For more information, please visit [www.iubesteinghetata.ro](http://www.iubesteinghetata.ro).

### **About Balkan Accession Fund**

Founded in January 2005, the Balkan Accession Fund is a € 110 million private equity regional fund, designed specifically to take advantage of investment opportunities in Romania and Bulgaria but also to selectively invest in other countries in the Balkan's Region and Turkey. BAF typically invest in companies that are industry leaders active in high growth sectors and developing a clear domestic and regional expansion strategy. BAF portfolio (out of which some of the companies have been already exited) includes market leaders in: distribution and retail, transportation and logistics, refrigeration, ice cream production, microfinance, leasing, consumer finance, equipment rental, IT. Up to now BAF has made investments in Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Moldova and Albania.

**SAFE HARBOUR:** This announcement may contain forward-looking statements, including 'forward-looking statements' within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Words such as 'expects', 'anticipates', 'intends', 'believes' or the negative of these terms and other similar expressions of future performance or results, and their negatives, are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and assumptions regarding anticipated developments and other factors affecting the Group. They are not historical facts, nor are they guarantees of future performance. Because these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements, including, among others, competitive pricing and activities, economic slowdown, industry consolidation, access to credit markets, recruitment levels, reputational risks, commodity prices, continued availability of raw materials, prioritisation of projects, consumption levels, costs, the ability to maintain and manage key customer relationships and supply chain sources, consumer demands, currency values, interest rates, the ability to integrate acquisitions and complete planned divestitures, the ability to complete planned restructuring activities, physical risks, environmental risks, the ability to manage regulatory, tax and legal matters and resolve pending matters within current estimates, legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments, political, economic and social conditions in the geographic markets where the Group operates and new or changed priorities of the Boards. Further details of potential risks and uncertainties affecting the Group are described in the Group's filings with the London Stock Exchange, Euronext Amsterdam and the US Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Group's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended 31 December 2010. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this document. Except as required by any applicable law or regulation, the Group expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in the Group's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.