

Heineken N.V. raises organic net profit growth forecast for 2006

Amsterdam, 18 July 2006 - Heineken N.V. today announced that it has raised its forecast for organic net profit growth for the full year ending 31 December 2006. Heineken now expects that organic net profit growth for the full year will be slightly above 10%. On 22 February 2006 Heineken announced that organic net profit growth in 2006 was not expected to exceed mid-single digits.

Strong volume growth in Central and Eastern Europe, the Americas, Africa and Southeast Asia has driven revenues and profit growth of the Heineken Group and resulted in the increase of the net profit forecast. In particular the launch of Heineken Premium Light[®] in the USA is proceeding successfully. Although the launch is still in its initial phase, volumes are expected to exceed the previously announced 400,000-hectolitre target for 2006. The introduction also has a positive effect on the volume growth of the core Heineken[®] brand in the USA. In Russia the integration activities related to the breweries acquired in 2005 are proceeding at pace and beer volumes are developing well.

The premium beer segment continues to grow faster than the world beer market overall. The Heineken[®] brand is growing at a faster pace than the premium segment itself. In the premium segment, Heineken[®] beer grew organically by 12.7% to 11.0 million hectolitres. Group beer volume¹ in the first six months of 2006 totalled 62.7 million hectolitres (+11.6%).

Group Beer Volume (Millions of hectolitres)	2006 H1	2005 H1	Change %	Organic growth %
Western Europe	16.0	15.8	0.7	0.7
Central and Eastern Europe	25.1	21.1	18.8	5.3
Americas	8.1	7.2	13.4	13.4
Africa and Middle East	8.2	7.1	15.5	15.5
Asia/Pacific	5.4	5.0	8.2	8.2
Total	62.8	56.2	11.6	6.6

Consolidated beer volume² grew by 11.6% to 53.3 million hectolitres in the first half of 2006. The organic growth in consolidated beer volume was 5.7%.

The Fit-to-Fight cost saving programme that will reduce fixed costs by €200 million by 2008 is proceeding according to plan and, as stated earlier, the main part of the cost savings will be achieved in 2007 and 2008.

Heineken N.V. will release its financial results for the first half of 2006 on 6 September 2006. The company entered into its closed period as of 8:00 a.m. today, 18 July.

¹ Group beer volume: 100% of beer volume produced and sold by fully consolidated companies and by proportionately joint-venture companies as well as the volume of Heineken's brands produced and sold under licence by third parties

² Consolidated beer volume: 100% of beer volume and sold by fully consolidated companies and Heineken's share of beer volume produced and sold by proportionately consolidated joint-venture companies

Editorial information

Heineken N.V. is the most international brewer in the world. The Heineken brand is sold in almost every country in the world and the company owns over 115 breweries in more than 65 countries. With a Group beer volume of 119 million hectolitres Heineken ranks fourth in the world beer market by volume. Heineken strives for an excellent sustainable financial performance through marketing a portfolio of strong local and international brands with the emphasis on the Heineken brand, through a carefully selected combination of broad and segment leadership positions and through a continuous focus on cost control. In 2005, revenues amounted to €11 billion and net profit before exceptional items and amortisation of brands amounted to €840 million. Heineken employs 64,000 people. Heineken N.V. and Heineken Holding N.V. shares are listed on the Amsterdam stock exchange. Prices for the ordinary shares may be accessed on Bloomberg under the symbols HEIN NA and HEIO NA and on the Reuter Equities 2000 Service under HEIN.AS and HEHN.AS. Additional information is available on Heineken's home page: <http://www.heinekeninternational.com>.

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