



AMORIM

## PRESS RELEASE

# CORTICEIRA AMORIM posted a € 5.1 million profit in 2009

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sales: EUR 415 million;
- EBITDA for Q4 increased by 105% in comparison to the same period in 2008;
- Net debt decreased by € 84 million compared to the end of 2008;
- Equity to total assets ratio improved again, reaching now 47.6%.

**Mozelos, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010** - CORTICEIRA AMORIM reported a net profit of 5.1 million euros (€) in 2009, with Q4 2009 maintaining the positive growth trend from Q2 2009.

During the year under review, CORTICEIRA AMORIM has demonstrated its ability to protect the most essential things in its markets and products. As a result, the Company is increasingly establishing itself as the only global player in the world of cork, reinforcing simultaneously its financial strength. This consolidation process was in marked contrast to the other cork manufacturers and contributed substantially to CORTICEIRA AMORIM's goal to report positive results at year-end.

Like other economic sectors, in 2009 the cork industry, in general, also faced an extremely difficult year. This is clearly evidenced by an 18.5% -decrease in the value of its exports (YTD October). Although CORTICEIRA AMORIM was also affected by such a critical conjuncture, it was able to stand up to such difficult situation, thanks not only to its financial strength built up in the past years, but also to rapid streamlining of its production units in view of such difficult business conditions.



Thus, in 2009, CORTICEIRA AMORIM's sales amounted to € 415.2 M, a decrease by 11.3% compared to 2008. This widespread decline affected almost every market and product family.

The pace of the drop in sales softened throughout the financial year; as a matter of fact, the sales made by the **Insulation Cork** Business Unit (BU) in the last quarter of 2009 increased in comparison to the same quarter of 2008. In cumulative terms, however, the sales made by this UN were 8.2% lower than in 2008. The performance of the **Cork Stoppers** BU is also worth of mention; in fact, at year-end, the sales of this BU showed an 8.5% decrease. In light of the situation in the cork stoppers market, this change points to an increase in this BU's market share. Sales made by the **Floor and Wall Coverings** BU and the **Composite Cork** BU to final customers declined by some 16%/17%.

In addition to the sales recovery recorded by CORTICEIRA AMORIM throughout the year under review, the net profit for the year of the Company benefitted from an increased gross margin and lower operating costs.

The decrease in interest expense by more than half, some € 5.7 M, compared to 13.4 M € in 2008, deserves also further mention. The fall in interest rate, but mainly the net debt reduction contributed significantly to this historical drop.

### **Net debt of CORTICEIRA AMORIM decreases by 37.8%**

CORTICEIRA AMORIM maintained its strategy aimed at reducing its net debt throughout the year. This had a positive impact on the Company's net profit for the year, as a result of a decrease in interest expense and to an increase to 47.6% of its equity to total assets ratio.

At the end of December 2009, the net debt of CORTICEIRA AMORIM fell by € 84.3 M (37.8%) to € 138.6 M compared to € 223 million a year earlier.

## Consolidated Key Indicators

	4Q09	4Q08	Increase/ Decrease	2009	2008	Increase/ Decrease
<b>Sales</b>	99 430	103 348	-3.79%	415 210	468 289	-11.33%
<b>Current EBITDA</b>	10 705	5 217	105.19%	38 522	48 366	-20.35%
<b>Current EBIT</b>	5 240	-754	-	17 935	25 545	-29.79%
<b>Net profit/loss</b> (attributable to shareholders)	2 862	-4310	-	5 111	6 153	-16.93%
<b>Equity to Total Assets Ratio</b>	-	-	-	47.60%	42.90%	4.7 pp
<b>Net Debt</b>	-	-	-	138 613	222 962	-37.83%

Audited values – 2008 and 2009 (thousand Euros)

Current EBITDA Q4 2008 and 2008 includes 1712 k€ of a Goodwill impairment



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## About CORTICEIRA AMORIM, SGPS, S.A.:

While tracing its roots to the XIX Century, CORTICEIRA AMORIM SGPS has become the world's largest cork and cork-derived company in the world, generating over Euro 410 million in sales throughout 103 countries. CORTICEIRA AMORIM SGPS and its subsidiaries are an integral part of a conservationist effort to guarantee the survival of hundreds of thousand of cork trees throughout the Mediterranean Basin. We are proud of our contribution to the correct utilisation of these important forests that are home to several endangered species throughout the region. We encourage you to learn more by visiting informative websites such as [www.amorim.com](http://www.amorim.com) and [www.corkfacts.com](http://www.corkfacts.com)

## CORTICEIRA AMORIM, SGPS, S.A.

Public company  
Edifício Amorim I  
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PORTUGAL  
Share capital: € 133 000 000,00  
A company incorporated in Santa Maria da Feira - Portugal  
Registration number and corporation tax ID number: PT 500 077 797

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