



PRESS RELEASE

## Sligro Food Group first quarter trading update

Veghel, 19 April 2007

Sligro Food Group's growth in like-for-like sales was over 6% in the first quarter and thus higher than expected. Total sales increased by 26%.

In the first quarter, the programme of converting mainly former Edah stores was continued vigorously. The number of EM-TÉ stores increased by 14 to 44. Seven Golff and two MeerMarkt stores were opened or combined. As in the fourth quarter of 2006, sales in the new stores grew on average by some 40% compared with the Edah level. Food retail activities saw like-for-like sales grow at existing locations by over 5%, due mainly to the acquisition of new wholesale customers. Sales indexes at existing supermarket sites grew modestly.

Like-for-like foodservice sales grew by over 6.5% as a result of acquiring new customers and higher spending by existing customers. As in 2006, Van Hoeckel generated double-figure sales growth.

Although the sales performance of the new supermarkets was satisfactory, their results are still under pressure from non-recurring additional costs and pressure on margins. It is also taking some time before the management of the new stores can be optimised, and so wastage and labour costs are higher than normal. In contrast, the foodservice activities are benefiting considerably from the strong sales performance, less pressure on margins and cost saving measures resulting from the new logistics infrastructure.

Nineteen new supermarkets and a new Sligro site are due to open in the second quarter. Despite the temporary pressure on the results from the rapid rate of opening new supermarkets, we expect that the net profit for the first half of 2007 will exceed the net profit of €21.8 million for the first half of 2006.

The half-year results will be published on 19 July 2007.

Sligro Food Group N.V. encompasses food service and food retail companies selling directly and indirectly to the entire Dutch food and beverage market. Sligro Food Group aims to be a dependable, high-quality company achieving managed growth in all its activities and for all its stakeholders. In 2006, the company achieved a net profit of €62 million on turnover of €1,661 million and had almost 3,700 employees, on a full-time equivalent basis.

Veghel, 19 April 2007

On behalf of the Executive Board of Sligro Food Group N.V.

*A.J.L. Slippens*  
Tel.: +31 413 34 35 00  
[www.sligrofoodgroup.com](http://www.sligrofoodgroup.com)