

Horst/Boxmeer, 21-23 April 2009

## STATEMENT

Following the information received regarding the closure of the Bray site and the subsequent transfer of production (which is a transnational issue), the EWC representatives/select committee, regret not having been informed in due time, as is written in the EWC agreement and EWC Directive. The EWC notes that these decisions have been taken on the basis of lengthy considerations and regrets not having been informed and consulted while these considerations were ongoing.

In view of the planned merger with Merck and its subsequent employment impact, we firmly ask the consultation of the EWC to be considered as a priority. The EWC offers its availability to contribute to this process by bringing forward additional proposals. To be able to contribute in such a constructive way, more detailed information is needed, before final decisions are taken, in conformity with the principles of the Leader Behaviours, and specifically towards transparency.

To allow the EWC to get answers to their questions and to be involved in the considerations before final decisions are taken concerning the integration with Merck, the EWC request for the necessary extra-ordinary meeting(s).

22 April 2009.