



## SECOND QUARTER AND HALF YEAR RESULTS 2006

**Broad-based growth in first half year, outlook for 2006 reaffirmed.**

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(unaudited)

Second Quarter 2006			€ million	Half Year 2006		
Current rates	Current rates	Constant rates		Current rates	Current rates	Constant rates
Continuing operations:						
10 258	3%	3%	Turnover	19 793	6%	3%
1 435	20%	21%	Operating profit	2 845	13%	10%
1 351	28%	29%	Pre-tax profit	2 661	19%	16%
1 007	37%	38%	Net profit from continuing operations	2 008	22%	19%
1 044	33%	34%	Net profit from total operations	2 103	19%	17%
0.33	42%	42%	EPS from continuing operations (Euros)	0.65	23%	20%
0.34	37%	38%	EPS from total operations (Euros)	0.69	20%	18%

### KEY FEATURES

- **Underlying sales growth of 3.4% in the first half year and 3.9% in the quarter, with sustained volume momentum and a pick-up in price.**
- **Increased investment in advertising and promotions.**
- **Operating margin of 14.4% in the first half year and 14.0% in the quarter.**
- **EPS from continuing operations up by 23% in the first half year, and by 8% excluding the impact of last year's impairment of Slim-Fast.**

### GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMENT

The first half year results give me confidence that we have largely succeeded in restoring competitiveness. All regions and categories contributed to growth and we continue to maintain market share in aggregate. Investment in support of our priorities has been rewarded by sustained progress in personal care, developing and emerging markets and Vitality innovation. I am also particularly encouraged by the resumption of growth in Europe.

I fully expect that we will achieve our outlook for this year of sustained growth and an operating margin above last year. This is in spite of a harsher than expected commodity cost environment which has impacted margins in the first half. We are accelerating our savings programmes and have an increasing contribution from price, while a strong innovation programme is driving improved mix.

We are now moving to the next phase of our strategy. Our new organisation is already focusing resources

more effectively behind our priorities. We now need to drive harder to build a winning portfolio by extending our leadership positions and our presence in high growth spaces. At the same time we are improving our consumer marketing and customer development to deliver outstanding execution. Bringing all this together as 'One Unilever' will ensure that we capitalise on both our local roots and global scale.

This strategy will enable us to grow ahead of our markets with sustainable margin improvement. I am confident that this will lead to sustainable underlying sales growth of 3-5%, and an operating margin in excess of 15% by 2010.

Patrick Cescau, Group Chief Executive

3 August 2006