

Novartex (Vivarte) announces the closing of the deal

Novartex (Vivarte) announces the closing of the company's debt restructuring, implementing the provisions of the agreement unanimously agreed with the group's 172 debt holders three months earlier.

The agreement provides for a €846mil waiver of debt, bringing it down to a total amount of €600mil. Debt maturity is extended by two years, up to 2021. The agreement also allows Vivarte to retain €95mil of future sales proceedings to finance the development of its banners.

The company's net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is significantly reduced, from c. twenty five times 2016FYE to c. five times 2018FYE. In so, Vivarte is recovering a sustainable financial situation, allowing the company and the banners to **get some new perspectives** and **effectively launch the recovery plan** presented by Patrick Puy in January 2017.

With this agreement, the shareholders confirm the exceptional financial effort they consented to in July 2014, whereby they gave up €2bn of debts and injected €500mil of liquidities. Shareholders have relinquished €2.84bn of debt over the past three years.

This agreement is a demonstration of the shareholders' entire confidence in the future of the company, the banners and the employees.

The company's governance will be renewed as part of the operation.

About Vivarte

Located in about 70 countries worldwide, Vivarte is one of the leading French companies in the retail fashion, shoe and bag sectors with the help of 16 front-row banners. Supported by a €2.2bn turnover in 2016, Vivarte continues the restructuring of its activities with a three-pillar strategy based upon suburban banners (La Halle and Besson), city centre shoe banners (Minelli, San Marina and CosmoParis) and Caroll.

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