



UNILEVER RESULTS FIRST QUARTER 2005

In competitive markets, first quarter business performance shows signs of progress.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(unaudited)

€ million

	First Quarter 2005		
	Current rates	Current rates	Constant rates
Turnover	9 266	2%	4%
Operating profit	1 416	8%	9%
Pre-tax profit	1 282	9%	10%
Net profit attributable to shareholders' equity	934	24%	25%
EPS NV (Euros)	0.96	25%	26%
EPS PLC (Euro cents)	14.44	25%	26%

KEY FEATURES OF THE QUARTER

- **Underlying sales grew by 6%, benefiting from additional calendar days in the quarter.**
- **Aggregate market shares are stabilising.**
- **Operating margin was 15.3% and included €73 million from profits on disposals.**
- **Earnings per share benefited from one-off movements in tax and net restructuring.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMENT

We are making progress on the plans to improve top line performance. The first stage was a step-up in market competitiveness, starting from the fourth quarter of last year. I am encouraged that we have had two consecutive quarters of growth and that aggregate market shares are now stabilising.

Our actions in the market place are now being supported by the transition to the new organisation announced in February, which is proceeding well.

This year we expect market conditions to remain very challenging in Europe, and margins to continue to be under pressure from increased input costs. However, performance in developing and emerging markets was better, and here the outlook is more promising.

Against this background, we will ensure our brands are competitive in their markets while continuing to drive cost efficiency. At the same time we remain focused on our priorities. These are: regaining momentum in Europe, building on our strengths in global personal care and developing and emerging markets; as well as innovation which addresses the Vitality needs of our consumers.

Patrick Cescau

Group Chief Executive

6 May 2005