



**OPENING OF THE STANDING MARKET OFFER BY  
PROVIMLUX INVESTMENTS FOR PROVIMI SHARES  
AT 13.25 EURO PER SHARE**

**Paris/Rotterdam, 19 December 2002**

**Provimplux standing market offer for the remaining 46.34% of Provimi shares held publicly at a price of 13.25 euro per share will be open tomorrow. This offer price is identical to the price set by the parties for Provimplux's acquisition of Edison's 53.66 % controlling interest in Provimi.**

The *Conseil des Marchés Financiers* (French financial markets council) approved the terms of the standing market offer on 11 December 2002. The *Commission des Opérations de Bourse* (French stock exchange commission – “COB”) approved the terms of the joint information note (*Note d'Information*) describing the terms and conditions of the offer under notice number 02-1253 on 17 December 2002. It can be viewed with effect from today on the COB's website ([www.cob.fr](http://www.cob.fr)) and is published today in the newspaper “La Tribune”. The *Note d'Information* as well as the *Document de Référence* of Provimi are available free of charge at Provimi offices or on Provimi's web site [WWW.Provimi.com](http://WWW.Provimi.com).

The standing market offer will be open for a period ranging from 20 December 2002 to 8 January 2003 inclusive.

The Board of Directors of Provimi has noted Provimplux Investment's intention to support Provimi's growth, its development strategy and wish to maintain Provimi's stock exchange listing, thereby giving those shareholders, who wish to benefit from the group's future growth, the option of keeping their shares.

**Important** : the standing market offer is made in France pursuant to French laws and regulations and shall not be deemed to be an offer to United-States holders of the Provimi securities.

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES

The Provimi Group is active worldwide in all types of animal nutrition and is a leader in all markets where it is present. Provimi is listed on the Euronext *Premier Marché* in Paris and member of SBF 120 and MidCAC. It employs over 8,000 people and had sales in 2001 of Eur 1.5 billion. Provimi has 95 production centres in 28 countries and exports to over 100. Provimi manufactures products and supplies technical support for all species, including ruminants, poultry, swine, fish and pets.

CVC Capital Partners is an independent European buy-out firm with a strong, local European network of 11 offices. Founded in 1981, CVC advises funds managing over US\$8 billion in equity capital and having completed over 220 investments with a total value in excess of US\$30 billion.

PAI management, formerly Paribas Affaires Industrielles, is a leading European private equity firm headquartered in Paris with offices in Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Madrid, Milan. PAI manages or advises dedicated buyout funds as well as BNP Paribas' portfolio of direct investments, for a combined equity value in excess of €7 billion.

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**This press release can be downloaded from the Provimi's website:**

<http://www.provimi.com>