

# Cnova

# **Update on Investigation into Brazil Inventory Management and Other Topics**

Amsterdam – January 12, 2016; 07:45 CET — Cnova N.V. (NASDAQ and Euronext Paris: CNV) today announced an update of its investigation into its Brazil inventory management and other topics.

### **Update on Investigation into Brazil Inventory Management**

On December 18, 2015, Cnova's board announced that it had hired external legal and forensic consultants to assist with an investigation in connection with employee misconduct related to inventory management at its Brazilian subsidiary distribution centers. The investigation is ongoing and issues identified are being addressed and remediated.

As of the date of this press release:

- Investigations performed so far in connection with inventory management have uncovered a potential overstatement of Cnova net sales by approximately R\$110 million (approximately €30 million) on a cumulative basis as of December 31, 2015 (adjusted in 4Q15 numbers on a preliminary basis).
- A comprehensive physical count as of December 31, 2015, of all seven of its distribution centers in Brazil has been completed with the support of external consultants. The results currently indicate that no significant adjustment is necessary based on the inventory count. They indicate, however, that a write-off linked to the valuation of damaged/returned items, which represents approximately 10% of total inventory, will be necessary. In addition, a material discrepancy in accounts receivable related to the damaged/returned items was also identified. The combined impact, based on preliminary estimates, would result in non-cash provisions of between R\$110 − 130 million (approximately €30 − 35 million) that would reduce Cnova's EBIT.

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# **Accounts Payable at Cnova Brazil**

The company has identified additional supplier or vendor accounts payable balances in the amount of approximately R\$70 million (approximately €20 million). A related provision is also planned to be booked that will reduce Cnova's EBIT.

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#### **Benchmark on Inventory Valuation**

As a result of benchmarking of inventory valuation of e-commerce companies, warehouse reception and storage costs will no longer be incorporated into a retail-sector inventory valuation but directly expensed through income as is widely practiced in the e-commerce sector. The cumulative impact is a negative one-off of €10 million.

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The company stresses that the assessment of the impact of the above on 2015 and potentially prior periods (annual consolidated financial statements and quarterly financial communication) is currently underway.

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# Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2015 Financial Results Release Date

Subject to progress of the ongoing inventory management investigation in Brazil, Cnova currently plans to release Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2015 Financial Results on February 24, 2016, at 07:45 CET.



#### About Cnova N.V.

Cnova N.V., one of the world's largest e-Commerce companies, serves 15 million active customers via state-of-the-art e-tail websites: Cdiscount in France, Brazil, Colombia, Thailand, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Belgium; Extra.com.br, Pontofrio.com and Casasbahia.com.br in Brazil. Cnova N.V.'s product offering of close to 29 million items provides its clients with a wide variety of very competitively priced goods, several fast and customer-convenient delivery options as well as practical payment solutions. Cnova N.V. is part of Groupe Casino, a global diversified retailer. Cnova N.V.'s news releases are available at www.cnova.com/investor-relations.aspx. Information available on, or accessible through, the sites referenced above is not part of this press release.

This press release contains regulated information (gereglementeerde informatie) within the meaning of the Dutch Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht) which must be made publicly available pursuant to Dutch and French law. This press release is intended for information purposes only.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

In addition to historical information, this press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements may include projections regarding Cnova's future performance and, in some cases, may be identified by words like "anticipate," "assume," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "future," "will," "seek" and similar terms or phrases. The forward-looking statements contained in this press release are based on management's current expectations, which are subject to uncertainty, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict and many of which are outside of Cnova's control. Important factors that could cause Cnova's actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements include, among others: the ability to grow its customer base; the ability to maintain and enhance its brands and reputation; the ability to manage the growth of Cnova effectively; changes to technologies used by Cnova; changes in global, national, regional or local economic, business, competitive, market or regulatory conditions; the ongoing internal review regarding inventory management in Brazil; and other factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the U.S. Annual Report on the Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2015 and other documents filed with or furnished to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statement made in this press release speaks only as of the date hereof. Factors or events that could cause Cnova's actual results to differ from the statements contained herein may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for Cnova to predict all of them. Except as required by law, Cnova undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forwardlooking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

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