

ASPO Plc

STOCK EXCHANGE RELEASE

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ASPO GROUP'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT RELEASE

ASPO 2009: Aspo improved, dividend unchangedJanuary-December, continuing operations

- Group net sales in 2009 were EUR 329.4 million (EUR 358.2 million)
- Operating profit was EUR 15.3 million (EUR 14.1 million)
- Profit before taxes amounted to EUR 11.7 million (EUR 9.5 million)
- Profit after taxes amounted to EUR 8.6 million (EUR 7.0 million)
- Earnings per share stood at EUR 0.33 (EUR 0.27)
- Free cash flow for 2009 was EUR 1.31 per share

- The consolidated balance sheet strengthened clearly. Interest bearing net debt stood at EUR 58.8 million at the end of the review period (EUR 82.4 million) and net gearing decreased considerably to 87.9% (124.9%).
- Equity ratio at the end of the period was 34.6% (30.6%).
- The Group's operating margin was 4.6% (3.9%), ROI was 11.1% (18.5%) and ROE was 13.0% (24.1%).
- The Board of Directors proposed a dividend of EUR 0.42 per share (EUR 0.42).

ASPO October-December 2009: strong last quarterOctober-December, continuing operations

- Group net sales amounted to EUR 90.1 million (EUR 100.2 million).
- Operating profit was EUR 4.0 million (EUR 1.2 million)
- Profit before taxes amounted to EUR 4.0 million (EUR -0.4 million)

- In 2010, Aspo has the preconditions to increase its net sales and improve its earnings per share.

KEY FIGURES

	1-12/2009	1-12/2008
Continuing operations		
Net sales, MEUR	329.4	358.2
Operating profit, MEUR	15.3	14.1
Share of net sales, %	4.6	3.9
Profit before taxes, MEUR	11.7	9.5
Share of net sales, %	3.6	2.7
Personnel at the end of period	717	821
Earnings per share, EUR, continuing operations	0.33	0.27
Earnings per share, EUR, discontinued operations	0.00	0.33
Earnings per share, EUR, total	0.33	0.60
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR, continuing operations	0.33	0.26
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR, discontinued operations	0.00	0.30
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR, total	0.33	0.56
Comparable earnings per share, EUR, continuing operations	0.16*	0.27
Comparable earnings per share, EUR, discontinued operations	0.00	-0.03
The Group on the whole		
Equity per share, EUR	2.59	2.56
Equity ratio, %	34.6	30.6
Gearing, %	87.9	124.9

*excluding the sales gains from m/s Kontula and Hamina Terminal Services' operations.

Aki Ojanen, Aspo's CEO:

Aspo's 2009 was good despite the general economic recession. I would like to extend my thanks for the good result both to the personnel and our established and loyal customers.

Aspo is highly successful in its four strong business areas. Our guidance for 2009 was that Aspo had good preconditions to reach the 2008 level of result for continuing operations. We believe that, despite being challenging, this goal was attainable. We were successful in reaching our goals on a broad spectrum. In 2009, we managed to reduce our debt considerably, strengthen our capital structure and made all businesses profitable. We consider our fourth quarter operating profit particularly good in light of the market situation. We exceeded our annual target and reached an operating profit of EUR 15.3 million (14.1) for continuing operations.

Earnings per share did not, in accordance with our guidance, reach the 2008 record level when we recognized a sales gain from the divestment of Autotank Group.

In 2009, Aspo's operations in Russia and Ukraine were able to increase their relative share of Group net sales, even though the local currencies had been heavily devalued at the turn from 2008 to 2009. We believe that the CIS and Ukraine economic area is among the global growth centers. Our local organization in these countries did a great job and generated profit while creating preconditions for further growth. Aspo's subsidiaries are now also present, in addition to Western Russia, in Siberia, Tatarstan and the Volga region. At the end of 2009, Leipurin also launched operations in Ukraine.

Aspo has, in accordance with its strategy, been able to carry out several acquisitions in 2009. At the end of the year, Leipurin acquired the Latvian bakery food company Raugs un citas preces SIA.

In terms of Group administrative costs, we have reached the targeted efficiency and at an annual level the savings will amount to approximately EUR 2 million.

The stability of the conglomerate does not prevent growth, however. A conglomerate like Aspo has good preconditions for growth, as the practices that have proven good within one business area can quickly be applied to other business areas.

ASPO AS A COMPANY

Aspo is a conglomerate that owns and develops business operations in the Baltic Sea region focusing on demanding B-to-B customers. Our strong company brands - ESL Shipping, Leipurin, Telko and Kaukomarkkinat - aim to be the market leaders in their sectors. They are responsible for their own operations, customer relationships, and the development of these. Together they generate Aspo's goodwill. Aspo's Group structure and business operations are continually developed without any predefined schedules.

From January 1, 2009, Aspo's business segments are ESL Shipping, Leipurin, Telko and Kaukomarkkinat. Other operations include Aspo Group's administration and other operations not belonging to the business units. The segment structure corresponds with Aspo Group's organizational structure and internal earnings reporting. IFRS regulations are applied to management reporting.

From January 1, 2009, the Group has monitored its net sales on the basis of the following geographical division: Finland, the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries, Russia and other CIS countries (including Ukraine), and other countries.

Leipurin and Kaukomarkkinat have been included in Aspo Group's figures from the beginning of May 2008. Telko's comparison figures include Kauko-Telko's industrial raw materials purchased in the spring of 2008 from the beginning of May 2008. Kaukomarkkinat was reported as a separate segment for the first time in 2009.

Discontinued operations in 2008 include Autotank Group, Kauko-Telko's procurement unit, the Finnish packaging business and the Swedish packaging and adhesive tape business.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The year 2009 began with a steep decline in sold raw material prices and demand, which bottomed out during summer, and prices stabilized at a low level. In the fall, product prices and demand made a moderate upturn. The prices of food raw materials showed a slight decline in 2009, but demand remained stable.

Among important customer segments, the steel industry decreased production considerably, which was reflected in cargo volumes. In the fall, a production increase in the Scandinavian steel industry boosted the volume of cargo carried. Increased volumes in the energy industry boosted the amount of energy coal carried in the summer and the amount for the full year exceeded the 2008 level.

In the CIS countries and Ukraine, stabilization of currencies for 2009 and the strengthening of the Russian ruble towards the end of the year have generated general confidence in a positive turn in the market in Russia, other CIS countries and Ukraine.

Group net sales started growing after summer, and in December the Group reached the highest net sales level of the year.

ESL Shipping

ESL Shipping is the leading dry bulk sea transport company operating in the Baltic Sea area. At the end of the review period, the fleet consisted of 16 vessels, of which the shipping company owns 15. ESL Shipping is an integral part of the maintenance support performance of the Finnish energy and steel industry.

	10-12/2009	10-12/2008	Change	2009	2008
Net Sales, MEUR	17.6	20.9	-3.3	63.8	84.1
Operating Profit, MEUR	3.6	4.2	-0.6	14.7	15.6
Personnel	194	240	-46	194	240

The shipping company's operating environment was challenging throughout 2009. A considerable drop in the cargo volume for steel industry contract customers, as well as a decrease in free cargo, reduced net sales. ESL Shipping adjusted to the situation by selling its oldest vessel, m/s Kontula, in the second quarter, from which a EUR 2.9 million sales gain was recognized, and by laying up barges in summer and early fall. Coal shipping partially compensated for the decrease in steel industry cargo. In August, m/s Nassauborg was period chartered to ensure winter transport for contract customers. In the last quarter, the cargo volume for the steel industry increased, which helped raise the cargo volume for the steel industry in 2009 to 5.7 million tons (8.7). The cargo volume for the energy industry grew from 3.8 million to 4.6 million tons. The total cargo volume in 2009 was 10.7 million tons (13.7).

ESL Shipping estimates that the market situation in the ship building industry has changed for the positive for the company. The company will, in accordance with its strategy, increase its capacity and renew its fleet. Due to a delay in

the construction schedule, the shipping company cancelled one of two vessels ordered from India. The vessel that is still under construction has been delayed, and it is expected to be completed by summer 2010. ESL Shipping has been compensated for the losses related to the delay. On the other hand, exchange rate losses have been recorded from reversal of fixed assets and currency hedging of future installments in the balance sheet. The joint effect from compensation for loss of income and the exchange rate losses is not considerable in terms of ESL Shipping's result.

Leipurin

Leipurin serves the baking and food industry by supplying ingredients, production machinery and production lines, as well as related expertise. Leipurin operates in Finland, Russia, Poland, the Baltic countries and Ukraine. In Russia, Leipurin has operations in several large cities in addition to St. Petersburg and Moscow. Procurement operations are international.

	10-12/2009	10-12/2008	Change	2009	5-12/2008
Net Sales, MEUR	27.5	27.1	0.4	99.3	69.3
Operating Profit, MEUR	1.1	1.1	0.0	3.2	3.1
Personnel	218	168	50	218	168

Leipurin's operations developed as planned in terms of bakery raw materials. Offices were established in Siberia and Tatarstan. The new offices have started out well and operations were profitable already in the first year of operation. A subsidiary was established in Ukraine and test bakeries were established in Siberia and Poland. At the end of the year, Leipurin acquired the share capital of the Latvian company Raugs un citas preces SIA, which sells and markets ingredients for the bakery and food industry. Leipurin is now the market leader in Finland and in all the Baltic countries. Russia's share of sales has increased and is now approximately 20% of total net sales. Bakery machine sales increased in 2009 and line deliveries were completed in the last quarter as planned. Other food industry operations grew modestly. The result in the fourth quarter was the best for the year.

Telko

Telko is the leading expert and supplier of industrial chemicals and plastic raw materials in the Baltic Sea region. It operates in Finland, the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. Procurement operations are international. Business is based on representation by the best international principals and on the expertise of our personnel. We develop the production and competitiveness of our customers' products in cooperation with them.

	10-12/2009	10-12/2008	Change	2009	2008
Net Sales, MEUR	33.7	40.3	-6.6	128.8	172.7
Operating Profit, MEUR	-0.1	-2.5	2.4	3.1	1.0
Personnel	193	230	-37	193	230

Telko's business environment in 2009 was historically weak. The result was affected both by a drop in sold raw material prices at the beginning of 2009 and by a steep drop in demand from 2008. Telko announced at the beginning of the year that it was aiming to improve profitability without any net sales target.

Telko continued improving internal operations and reorganization measures caused by weak demand in Finland and Scandinavia. Loss-making products and operations were abandoned. The new CEO, M.Sc. Kalle Kettunen, took over on August 1, 2009.

In the fall, a reorganization was carried out and the focus of the organization was shifted to the Eastern markets, which created preconditions for additional growth. Operations in Russia and other CIS countries developed well throughout 2009. Their share of net sales was 30%.

In the third quarter, Telko divested its terminal operations in Hamina as unsuitable for the current strategy, which generated a EUR 3.2 million sales gain. In the fourth quarter the loss-making Dutch plastic operations' trading unit was closed. The full-year result includes non-recurring costs of EUR 2.3 million from reorganization measures and a decrease in personnel, of which EUR 0.5 million was allocated to the fourth quarter. The result in the fourth quarter was also depressed by the write-down of receivables from a Finnish customer worth EUR 0.4 million.

In the fall of 2009, Telko combined its Finnish operations under one roof and adopted a new ERP system from the beginning of 2010.

Kaukomarkkinat

Kaukomarkkinat specializes in energy efficiency technology, solutions to improve efficiency in the process industry, and security and digital applications. Operations are based on the products of the best companies in the industry and the willingness of the company's own experts to improve the operations and efficiency of its customers. Kaukomarkkinat operates in Finland, Poland, Russia, China, and Vietnam.

	10-12/2009	10-12/2008	Change	2009	5-12/2008
Net Sales, MEUR	11.3	10.8	0.5	36.4	30.8
Operating Profit, MEUR	0.5	1.0	-0.5	0.5	2.1
Personnel	90	100	-10	90	100

In energy efficiency products, sales of air-source heat pumps have been weaker in Finland than last year due to the general economic situation. As a result of marketing campaigns, sales recovered in the fourth quarter. Kaukomarkkinat's result was depressed by a EUR 0.5 million sales loss recorded from the divestment of Metex Deutschland in the summer. In August, Kaukomarkkinat divested its component and mechatronics operations. The deal had no effect on Kaukomarkkinat's result.

Towards the end of the year, Kaukomarkkinat signed an agreement on delivering energy-saving bulbs to the Finnish market. In project sales for improving process industry efficiency, a slight recovery has been witnessed since the summer, in Poland in particular. A substantial project from China was recorded in the fourth quarter. In security and digital solutions, sales of durable hunting phones and laptops in particular developed favorably.

Other operations

Other Operations include Aspo Group's administration and other operations not belonging to the business units. The Group's administrative costs were still unusually high. The ongoing cost-cutting program for fixed costs will reach its full effect from the fourth quarter 2009 onwards. The aim is annual cost savings of EUR 2 million. Aspo's offices in Helsinki and Espoo moved into new common premises during the fall of 2009.

	10-12/2009	10-12/2008	Change	2009	2008
Net Sales, MEUR	0.0	1.1	-1.1	1.1	1.3
Operating Profit, MEUR	-1.1	-2.6	1.5	-6.2	-7.7
Personnel	22	83	-61	22	83

NET SALES

The net sales for Aspo Group's continuing operations decreased by EUR 28.8 million, or 8.0 percent, to EUR 329.4 million (358.2).

Net Sales by Segment, MEUR

	10-12/09	10-12/08	Change	2009	2008
ESL Shipping	17.6	20.9	-3.3	63.8	84.1
Leipurin	27.5	27.1	0.4	99.3	69.3
Telko	33.7	40.3	-6.6	128.8	172.7
Kaukomarkkinat	11.3	10.8	0.5	36.4	30.8
Other operations	0.0	1.1	-1.1	1.1	1.3
Continuing operations total	90.1	100.2	-10.1	329.4	358.2
Discontinued operations		1.9	-1.9		45.1
Total	90.1	102.1	-12.0	329.4	403.3

Inter-segment net sales is not considerable.

Net Sales by Market Area, MEUR

Continuing Operations

	10-12/09	10-12/08	Change	2009	2008
ESL Shipping	38.8	25.3	13.5	151.8	166.0
Leipurin	9.6	12.2	-2.6	30.0	47.5
Telko	9.2	12.2	-3.0	37.0	32.8
Kaukomarkkinat	18.0	23.4	-5.4	56.2	61.1
Other operations	14.5	27.1	-12.6	54.4	50.8
Continuing operations total	90.1	100.2	-10.1	329.4	358.2
Discontinued operations		1.9	-1.9		45.1
Total	90.1	102.1	-12.0	329.4	403.3

The significance of Russia and Ukraine in Aspo's business is further emphasized when ESL Shipping's raw material transport costs from Russia are included in the net sales of the Russian market area. On an annual level, Russia and other CIS countries increased their share to 27% (25) of Group net sales. The net sales of Russia + other CIS countries is as follows:

	10-12/09	10-12/08	Change	2009	2008
Russia + other CIS countries	23.9	30.1	-6.2	87.9	90.6

EARNINGS

Operating profit for Aspo Group's continuing operations in 2009 amounted to EUR 15.3 million (14.1). Operating profit includes EUR 6.1 million in sales gains, EUR 0.5 million in sales losses and non-recurring costs from Telko of EUR 2.3 million.

ESL Shipping's operating profit was EUR 14.7 million (15.6), including a EUR 2.9 million sales gain from m/s Kontula. Leipurin's operating profit was EUR 3.2 million (3.1). Telko's operating profit grew by EUR 2.1 million to EUR 3.1 million (1.0). Kaukomarkkinat's operating profit was EUR 0.5 million (2.1).

Other Operations include Aspo Group's administration and a small share of other items not belonging to the business units. The operating profit of other operations was EUR 6.2 million in the red (-7.7). Administrative costs decreased considerably from the fourth quarter onwards.

Operating Profit by Segment, MEUR

	10-12/09	10-12/08	Change	2009	2008
ESL Shipping	3.6	4.2	-0.6	14.7	15.6
Leipurin	1.1	1.1	0.0	3.2	3.1
Telko	-0.1	-2.5	2.4	3.1	1.0
Kaukomarkkinat	0.5	1.0	-0.5	0.5	2.1
Other operations	-1.1	-2.6	1.5	-6.2	-7.7
Continuing operations total	4.0	1.2	2.8	15.3	14.1
Discontinued operations		0.6	-0.6		9.6
Total	4.0	1.8	2.2	15.3	23.7

Earnings per share

Earnings per share for continuing operations stood at EUR 0.33 (0.27) and the diluted earnings per share was EUR 0.33(0.26). Equity per share was EUR 2.59 (2.56).

INVESTMENTS

The investments from the Group's continuing operations amounted to EUR 7.4 million (20.5), which mainly includes ESL Shipping's dockings and Telko's new ERP system adopted at the beginning of 2010. Other investments were maintenance investments.

Investments by Segment, acquisitions excluded, MEUR

	10-12/09	10-12/08	Change	2009	2008
ESL Shipping	0.2	0.2	0.0	3.1	18.8
Leipurin	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1
Telko	1.6	0.1	1.5	2.5	0.4
Kaukomarkkinat	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1
Other operations	0.1	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.1
Continuing operations total	2.2	0.8	1.4	7.4	20.5
Discontinued operations		0.0	0.0		0.6
Total	2.2	0.8	1.4	7.4	21.1

FINANCING

The Group's financing position improved considerably during the year. The divestment of Hamina Terminal Services Ltd's operations, the Kontula vessel and smaller individual business operations together with strong operational cash flow enabled a considerable decrease in interest-bearing debt in the review period. In addition, the cancellation of ESL Shipping's second vessel order from India strengthened the Group's financial position. The Group's liquidity is good and the amount of cash and cash equivalents on the closing date was EUR 11.5 million (12.6). There was a total of EUR 70.3 million (95.0) in interest-bearing liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet on the closing date. Interest-free liabilities totaled EUR 58.6 million (43.6).

Aspo Group's net gearing was 87.9% (124.9), the return on equity was 13.0% (24.1) and the equity ratio was 34.6% (30.6).

The Group's cash flow from operations still remained strong. The cash flow for January-December was EUR 13.0 million (30.9). The Group maintained its strong operating profit level but less working capital was released than in the comparison period. The Group's free cash flow was EUR 33.9 million (-39.8). Divestment and transfer gains from business operations and material commodities generated a strong cash flow for the Group. Similarly the low level of considerable investments affected free cash flow in the period.

The amount of working capital decreased further. At the end of the period the change in working capital stood at EUR 6.8 million (14.9).

The amount of binding revolving credit facility signed between Aspo and its main financing banks stood at EUR 80 million at the end of the period. At the end of the period the binding revolving credit facility remained fully unused.

RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The deep economic recession that began in 2008 continued in 2009, maintaining an elevated risk level in all of Aspo's business areas. The economic uncertainty and slow or even negative growth increased uncertainty throughout early 2009, but did not prevent operations and controlled growth in most of our business areas. Towards the end of the year, stabilization in the economy and a slight recovery in prices also decreased risks.

The Group is growing in developing market areas where growth risks are also affected by investments, interest rate levels, exchange rates and customers' liquidity, as well as changes in legislation and import regulations. In terms of Aspo's market areas, the general economic uncertainty also affects industrial demand in Western countries. Of customer segments, basic industry in particular has announced that its order book has decreased from 2009. Changes in demand in developing markets are more difficult to estimate.

The Group has avoided considerable exchange rate losses due to active hedging of currency positions and currency flow. Risks of bad debt have increased, and in 2009 the group recognized some provisions for bad debts, of which a significant was made in the last quarter.

The risks caused by the economic recession were monitored in 2009 particularly actively at Aspo. The merger of operations as a result of the 2008 acquisition was completed in the fall of 2009 and the risk management of the merger was combined with the general Group risk management. The business areas still continued carrying out risk analyses controlled by external assessors and making continuity plans. Risks were also analyzed to ensure sufficient insurance coverage and no major shortcomings were detected. In December, Aspo's Board of Directors approved internal supervision principles in which risk assessment and management instructions are included as an integral part.

Risk management is part of Aspo's internal supervision and its task is to ensure the implementation of the Group's strategy, development of financial results, shareholder value, dividend payment ability and continuity in business operations. The operational management of the business areas are responsible for risk management. The management is responsible for defining sufficient measures, implementation and for monitoring that the measures are implemented as part of day to day operational control. Risk management is coordinated by Aspo's CFO, who reports to the Group CEO.

In operational risks, the main risks in terms of likelihood and effect are connected to the permanence of customer relationships, equipment sufficiency, maintaining the balance level and key personnel. Risks related to goodwill are monitored through impairment testing in each business area at least once a year,

but more frequently in 2009 due to the recession. In 2009, there was no need to make changes to goodwill.

Aspo Group's financing and financing risk management is centralized in the parent company in accordance with the financing policy approved by the Board of Directors.

CHANGES IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Aspo follows the Finnish Corporate Governance Code issued by the Securities Market Association, which became effective on January 1, 2009. Aspo's Board of Directors approved changes to the company's own insider instructions as from November 1, 2009. Instead of the previous 14 days, Aspo Plc's permanent insiders are not allowed to acquire or surrender securities issued by the company within 21 days prior to the publication of the financial statements or interim reviews, nor on the day of publication.

PERSONNEL

At the end of the period the number of employees at Aspo Group was 717 (827) and the average during the fiscal period was 723 (882). The average number of officials during the year was 492 (553) and of employees was 231 (364). The number of personnel in the parent company consisting of officials was 13 (14) at the end of the period and 15 (13) on average during the period.

Of Aspo Group's personnel, 59% (64) work in Finland, 4% (4) in other Nordic countries, 10% (6) in Baltic countries, 18% (14) in Russia and other CIS countries, and 9% (12) in other countries. Men make up 64% (67) and women 36% (33) of employees. Of Aspo Group's employment contracts, 99% (99) are full time. During the financial year, 30 (66) new employment contracts were signed. Total wages and salaries paid to personnel in 2009 amounted to EUR 36.4 million (35.4).

Personnel by Segment, year-end

	2009	2008
ESL Shipping	194	240
Leipurin	218	168
Telko	193	230
Kaukomarkkinat	90	100
Other operations	22	83
Continuing operations total	717	821
Discontinued operations		6
Total	717	827

REWARDS AND INCENTIVES

The Aspo Group has introduced a profit-sharing scheme. Part of the Group's profit is placed in a personnel fund as a profit bonus. The objective is for the fund to use the majority of the profit bonuses to acquire Aspo Plc shares. The long-term objective is to make the personnel one of the company's key shareholder groups. The personnel fund covers all of Aspo Group personnel working in Finnish subsidiaries. In addition to this, Aspo's business areas pay part of their earnings as bonuses to the personnel. The calculation principles for the bonuses are decided on by business area.

In 2006, Aspo's Board of Directors decided on a share price-linked incentive scheme for key personnel, in which any bonus is based on the three-year yield of the company's share. No bonuses were paid based on the program in 2009. The Board of Directors decided, however, to continue the 2006 management share-ownership plan by granting the people included in the plan a possibility to receive Aspo shares in spring of 2010. The possible bonus will be paid in part as shares and in part as cash. The 2006 share-ownership plan encompasses about 30 people.

In March 2009, Aspo's Board of Directors also decided on a share price-linked incentive scheme for key personnel, in which any bonus is based on the performance of the company's share in 2009-2011. The scheme covers approximately 40 Aspo Group executives and key employees.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Aspo Group's R&D focuses mainly on developing operations, procedures and production technology without a separate organization, which means that the development investments are included in normal operational costs and are not itemized.

ENVIRONMENT

Aspo Group's regular operations do not have any significant environmental impact. The Group companies follow Aspo's environmental policy with the main principle of continuously improving operations. Throughout our operations we support the principles of sustainable development.

Aspo looks after the environment by taking initiatives and continuously monitoring the laws and recommendations connected to its operation and any revisions to these. We want to be pioneers in all of our operations and also anticipate future developments in environmental regulations.

MANAGEMENT AND AUDITORS

Aspo Plc's Annual General Meeting on March 31, 2009 re-elected Matti Arteva, Esa Karppinen, Roberto Lencioni, Gustav Nyberg and Risto Salo to the Board of Directors for a one-year term. As Kari Stadigh opted out of the Board of Directors, Kristina Pentti-von Walzel was elected as a new member of the Board. Gustav Nyberg has acted as the full-time Chairman of the Board since January 1, 2009. Matti Arteva has acted as the deputy Chairman.

In 2009, the Board of Directors arranged 13 meetings, of which four were teleconferences. The average participation rate was 99%.

Since January 1, 2009 the Group CEO has been Aki Ojanen, and the Group CFO Arto Meitsalo.

The authorized public accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers Oy has been the company's auditor. Mr. Jan Holmberg, APA, has acted as the auditor in charge.

BOARD AUTHORIZATIONS

The Annual Shareholders' Meeting of 2009 authorized the Board to decide on a share issue, through one or several instalments, to be executed by conveying shares held by the company. An aggregate maximum amount of 1,020,000 shares may be conveyed based on the authorization.

The authorization will be used for the financing or execution of corporate acquisitions or other transactions or for other purposes determined by the Board. The authorization includes the right of the Board of Directors to decide on all the terms and conditions of the conveyance and thus also includes the right to convey shares otherwise than in proportion to the holdings of the shareholders, in deviation from the shareholders' pre-emptive right on the conditions provided by law.

Furthermore, the shareholders authorized the Board to decide on the acquisition of company-held shares using the unrestricted shareholders' equity of the company. The authorization covers a maximum of 400,000 own shares. The shares shall be acquired through public trading, for which reason the shares are acquired otherwise than in proportion to the holdings of the shareholders and the consideration paid for the shares shall be the market price of Aspo's share at the time of repurchase. The authorization does not exclude the Board's right to resolve on a directed repurchase. The shares shall be acquired through public trading on NASDAQ OMX Helsinki Ltd in accordance with its rules and regulations.

The shares shall be acquired to be used to finance or carry out possible acquisitions or other arrangements, to balance the financial risk of the company's share-ownership program or for other purposes determined by the Board. The Board may not exercise the authorization if after the acquisition the company or its subsidiary would possess or have as a pledge more than ten (10) per cent of the company's stock.

The authorization is valid until the Annual Shareholders' Meeting of 2009, but no more than 18 months from the approval at the Shareholders' Meeting.

The Board of Directors has not exercised the authorizations granted by the Annual General Meeting.

Aspo Plc's Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting held on June 8, 2009 authorized the Board of Directors to decide on an issue of shares and special rights entitling to shares. A maximum of 2,600,000 shares may be issued on the basis of the authorization. The authorization will be used for a convertible capital loan to be issued by Aspo Plc, directed to a limited group of investors. The authorization will not supersede the authorization to decide on a share issue given to the Board of Directors by the Annual Shareholders' meeting.

The Board of Directors exercised the authorization granted by the Extraordinary General Meeting on June 8, 2009, and decided to offer a convertible capital loan with a maximum loan amount of EUR 15,000,000 for subscription by a limited group of selected investors.

SHARES AND SHAREHOLDERS

Aspo Plc's registered share capital on December 31, 2009, was EUR 17,691,729.57 and the total number of shares was 26,406,063. The company's own shareholding was 620,000 shares, accounting for 2.35 percent of Aspo Plc's stock. Aspo Plc has one share series. Each share entitles its holder to one vote at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting. The company's shares are quoted on NASDAQ OMX Helsinki in the mid cap category and under the GICS classification Industrials.

During 2009, a total of 2,262,316 Aspo Plc shares were traded at EUR 12.2 million or 8.6% of the shares changed owners. The share reached a high of EUR 6.20 and a low of EUR 3.94 during the period. The average price was EUR 5.43 and the closing price was EUR 5.90. The market value of the share capital at the year-end, less treasury shares, was EUR 152.1 million.

At year-end, the number of Aspo Plc shareholders was 5,161. A total of 818,331 shares or 3.1 % of the total share capital was nominee registered or held by non-domestic shareholders.

Henrik B. Nyberg announced on January 19, 2009 that his share of Aspo Plc's share capital and votes fell below 10%.

CONVERTIBLE CAPITAL LOAN

The convertible capital loan issued in 2004 of EUR 15,512,500 was repaid on June 4, 2009 in accordance with the loan terms.

Aspo Plc has EUR 15,000,000 in a convertible capital loan issued in 2009. The loan period is June 30, 2009 - June 30, 2014. The loan will be repaid in one installment on June 30, 2014, assuming that the repayment conditions outlined in Chapter 5 of the Finnish Companies Act and the loan terms are met. The loan has a fixed interest rate of 7%.

The capital notes can be converted into Aspo stock. Each EUR 50,000 share of the loan entitles the loan shareholder to convert the loan share to 7,690 Aspo Plc shares. The conversion price for the share is EUR 6.50. The loan can be converted annually between January 2 and November 11. The conversion period ends on June 15, 2014. No conversions were made in 2009.

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The company arranged a Capital Markets Day on January 19, 2010 and issued a stock exchange release on the subject on January 19, 2009.

Revolving credit facilities were reorganized after the review period. The maturity of the agreements was extended and the total amount was decreased from EUR 80 million to EUR 50 million. The company also implemented a new financing source by signing a sales agreement concerning some of Telko's trade receivables.

The Group CTO Harri Seppälä, was on February 1, 2010, in addition to his previous duties, appointed responsible for Aspo's investor relations reporting to the CEO.

DIVIDEND PROPOSAL

At the Annual Shareholders' Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2010, the Board will propose that a dividend of EUR 0.42 be distributed for fiscal 2009 on shares outstanding and that no dividend be paid for treasury shares.

OUTLOOK FOR 2010

Aspo Group's current structure creates a good basis for growth in operations. Administrative costs are expected to decrease considerably from 2009. The Group is seeking growth in particular in Russia and other CIS countries, as well as in Western markets as the economy recovers.

Aspo's aim is to improve its profitability.

Aspo has the preconditions to increase its net sales and improve its earnings per share.

ESL Shipping

The shipping company's vessel capacity has decreased in recent years. The vessel ordered from India is expected to be completed by summer and be with us on the

Baltic during the fall. In order to ensure winter traffic, which has been more challenging than in previous years, and to cover docking in early summer, two new vessels have been period chartered. M/s Beatrix is chartered from February to June and m/s Princenborg to the end of April. M/s Nassauborg's period of charter is continuing for the time being. A considerable share of the transportation capacity of 2010 has been covered with long-term agreements. The volume in the steel industry is estimated to exceed 2009 levels and the cargo volumes in the energy sector are expected to remain at the same level as in previous years. ESL Shipping is preparing to increase its capacity and renewing its fleet in accordance with its strategy.

The amendment to the tonnage tax legislation that is awaiting approval from the EU commission would have a considerable effect on ESL Shipping's post-tax result if applied. The new tonnage tax legislation is expected to become retroactively valid from January 1, 2010.

Leipurin

Organic growth is expected to continue. During 2010, Leipurin will continue establishing itself in new major cities in Russia, will establish a test bakery in Ukraine and investigate the possibility of starting operations in Belarus and Kazakhstan. The wherewithal for growth is created by a new customs agreement between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus that will take effect on July 1, 2010. The new offices create a good foundation for several years of growth in bakery raw material sales. Bakery machine sales is estimated to be at last year's level. In terms of market areas, growth is expected from Russia, but sales in the Baltic region is expected to decline. The order book for project deliveries has decreased from the 2009 level.

Leipurin aims at an operating profit level that is at least on par with the 2009 level.

Telko

The savings effect on fixed costs from reorganization methods completed in 2009 is estimated to be approximately EUR 2 million in 2010. Telko will continue to make its operations more efficient.

In early 2010 a new subsidiary will be founded in China. Operations will initially be based on service to Northern European plastic industry customers operating in China. The company will continue expanding in Russia and the CIS countries in accordance with its strategy. New offices will be opened in major cities in Russia. The new customs treaty between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan from July 1, 2010 creates good opportunities to expand into Belarus and Kazakhstan. The decision to expand into new countries will be made during 2010. Telko will focus on further developing logistics and finding strong new clients. The price level increased moderately in the fall of 2009 but is still clearly below the 2008 level. Prices are not expected to decrease during 2010.

Telko is aiming to improve its operating profit.

Kaukomarkkinat

Kaukomarkkinat's main target is to grow at least as much as general market growth in the Finnish air-source heat pump markets. In addition, the business is aiming to expand its product portfolio - the company will introduce its own air-water source heat pump to the markets by summer.

Project sales in the process industry are expected to improve to 2008 levels. The company's order book in China has improved compared to 2009. Growth is being sought in security and digital applications.

Kaukomarkkinat has the preconditions to improve its operating profit level.

Operational risks

The general economic situation is affecting industrial demand in the Baltic Sea region. Of customer segments, basic industry in particular has announced that its order book has decreased from 2009. Changes in demand in developing markets are more difficult to estimate. In Russia in particular the overall market is expected to continue developing positively, and the share of Russia and CIS countries in Aspo Group's operations is expected to remain intact or increase. The risk of a recession in the financial markets and the economy is still reflected in the exchange rates in our neighboring areas (Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic region and Poland). The economic recession may affect customers' liquidity.

Helsinki, February 15, 2010

ASPO Plc

Board of Directors

ASPO GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

	10-12/09		10-12/08	
	MEUR	%	MEUR	%
Net sales	90.1	100.0	100.2	100.0
Other operating income	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.4
Depreciation and write-downs	-2.1	-2.3	-3.0	0.0
Operating profit	4.0	4.4	1.2	1,2
Financial income and expenses	0.0	0.0	-1.6	-1.6
Profit before taxes	4.0	4.4	-0.4	-0.4
Profit for the period continuing operations	2.5	2.8	0.5	0.5
Profit for the period discontinued operations			0.3	0.3
Profit for the period	2.5	2.8	0.8	0.8
Other comprehensive income				
Translation differences	0.4		-1.3	
Cash flow hedges	0.9		0.3	
Net result recognized directly to equity	0.2		0.5	
Income tax on other comprehensive income	-0.3		0.0	
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of taxes	1.2		-0.5	
Total comprehensive income	3.7		0.3	
Profit attributable to shareholders	2.4		0.8	
Minority interest	0.1		0.0	
Total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders	3.6		0.3	
Minority interest	0.1		0.0	
	1-12/09		1-12/08	
	MEUR	%	MEUR	%
Net sales	329.4	100.0	358.2	100.0
Other operating income	10.5	3.2	1.6	0.4
Depreciation and write-downs	-8.9	-2.7	-10.8	-3.0
Operating profit	15.3	4.6	14.1	3.9
Financial income and expenses	-3.6	-1.1	-4.6	-1.3
Profit before taxes	11.7	3.6	9.5	2.7
Profit for the period continuing operations	8.6	2.6	7.0	2.0
Profit for the period discontinued operations			8.5	2.4
Profit for the period	8.6	2.6	15.5	4.3

Other comprehensive income		
Translation differences	-0.1	-1.5
Cash flow hedges	0.4	0.9
Net result recognized directly to equity	0.2	0.0
Income tax on other comprehensive income	-0.1	-0.2
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of taxes	0.4	-0.8
Total comprehensive income	9.0	14.7

Profit attributable to shareholders	8.5	15.5
Minority interest	0.1	0.0

Total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders	8.9	14.7
Minority interest	0.1	0.0

ASPO GROUP BALANCE SHEET	12/09 MEUR	12/08 MEUR	Change %
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	16.6	17.0	-2.4
Goodwill	40.2	40.4	-0.5
Tangible assets	50.1	69.1	-27.5
Available-for-sale assets	0.2	0.2	0.0
Long-term receivables	0.6	1.1	-45.5
Shares in associated companies	1.6	0.9	77.8
Total non-current assets	109.3	128.7	-15.1
Current assets			
Inventories	29.3	33.4	-12.3
Sales and other receivables	44.7	43.3	3.2
Cash and bank deposits	11.5	12.6	-8.7
Total current assets	85.5	89.3	-4.3
Assets classified as held for sale		0.7	-100.0
Total assets	194.8	218.7	-10.9
Shareholders' Equity and Liabilities			
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital	17.7	17.7	0.0
Other shareholders' equity	49.2	48.3	1.9
Shareholders' equity attributable to equity holders of the parent	66.9	66.0	1.4
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long-term liabilities			
Short-term liabilities	57.1	50.2	13.7
Liabilities classified as held for sale	70.8	102.0	-30.6
		0.5	-100.0
Total Shareholders' equity and liabilities	194.8	218.7	-10.9

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

A = Share Capital
 B = Premium Fund
 C = Fair Value Fund
 D = Other Funds
 E = Repurchased Shares
 F = Translation Difference
 G = Retained Earnings
 H = Total
 I = Minority Interest
 J = Total Shareholders' Equity

MEUR	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Balance at 31.12.2008	17.7	4.3	-0.3	0.5	-3.7	-1.5	49.0	66.0	0.0	66.0
Total comprehensive income			0.3			-0.1	8.8		-0.1	8.9
Dividend payment							-10.8			-10.8
Share based payment							0.5			0.5
Equity share of convertible bond				3.2						3.2
Share of deferred taxes				-0.9						-0.9
Balance at 31.12.2009	17.7	4.3	0.0	2.8	-3.7	-1.6	47.5	67.0	-0.1	66.9
MEUR	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Balance at 31.12.2007	17.7	4.3	-1.0	0.5	-3.0	0.0	44.3	62.8	0.2	63.0
Total comprehensive income			0.7			-1.5	15.5		0.0	14.7
Dividend payment							-10.8			-10.8
Share repurchase					-0.8					-0.8
Share disposal					0.1					0.1
Change in minority interest									-0.2	-0.2
Balance at 31.12.2008	17.7	4.3	-0.3	0.5	-3.7	-1.5	49.0	66.0	0.0	66.0

ASPO GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	1-12/09 MEUR	1-12/08 MEUR
OPERATIONAL CASH FLOW		
Operating profit	15.3	23.7
Adjustments to operating profit	1.7	1.3
Change in working capital	6.8	14.9
Interest paid	-5.5	-6.0
Interest received	0.2	1.0
Taxes paid	-5.5	-4.0
Total operational cash flow	13.0	30.9
INVESTMENTS		
Investments in tangible and intangible assets	-3.8	-22.0
Gains on the sale of tangible and intangible assets	13.8	0.7
Gains on the sale of business operations	11.1	
Purchases of subsidiary shares	-1.2	-78.2
Sale of the subsidiary shares	1.0	28.8
Total cash flow from investments	20.9	-70.7
FINANCING		
Share acquisition		-0.8
Share disposal		0.1
Change in short-term borrowings	-32.7	16.9
Change in long-term borrowings	8.5	34.0
Profit distribution to minorities		-0.1
Dividends paid	-10.8	-10.8
Total financing	-35.0	39.3
Increase / Decrease in liquid funds	-1.1	-0.5
Liquid funds in beginning of year	12.6	13.1
Liquid funds at period end	11.5	12.6
KEY FIGURES AND RATIOS		
	2009	2008
Earnings per share, EUR continuing operations	0.33	0.27
Earnings per share, EUR discontinued operations	0.00	0.33
Earnings per share total	0.33	0.60
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR continuing operations	0.33	0.26
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR discontinued operations	0.00	0.30
EPS adjusted for dilution, EUR total	0.33	0.56
Comparable earnings per share, EUR continuing operations	0.16	0.27
Comparable earnings per share, EUR, Discontinued operations	0.00	-0.03
The whole group		
Equity per share, EUR	2.59	2.56
Equity ratio, %	34.6	30.6
Gearing, %	87.9	124.9

ASPO GROUP CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	2009	2008
	MEUR	MEUR
Securities on group liabilities	72.4	79.0
Leasing liabilities	16.9	10.0
Derivative contracts	0.7	0.7

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

This interim report has been compiled in accordance with the principles of IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting. As of January 1, 2009, the Group has applied the following new and revised standards: IFRS 8 Operating Segments and IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements. IFRS 8 has an effect on the segment information and IAS 1 has an effect on the presentation of the income statement. The comparison figures have been restated according to the new standards. The changes have no effect on the Group's result or financial position.

In other regards, the same accounting principles that were applied to the Financial Statement for December 31, 2008, have been applied. The calculation formulas for key figures are explained in the 2008 Financial Statements on page 83. The report is unaudited.

Helsinki February 15, 2010

ASPO Plc

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CFO

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INFORMATION MEETING

Aspo will arrange a press conference for the media and analysts today, Monday 15 February, 2010, starting at 14:30 at Hotel Kämp, conference room Gallen-Kallela, Pohjoisesplanadi 29, 00100 Helsinki, Finland.

ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

The Aspo Plc Annual Shareholders' Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at 14:00 in the Stock Exchange Building at Fabianinkatu 14, 00100 Helsinki.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN 2010

The 2010 Annual Report will be published during week 13 in Finnish, in English and in Swedish. You can read and order the report on our website at www.aspo.com. Aspo Plc will publish three Interim Reports in 2010: for the first quarter on April 28, 2010, for the second quarter on August 24, 2010, and for the third quarter on October 26, 2010.

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