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LAFARGE PROPOSES A PARTNERSHIP WITH CIMPOR

Lafarge announces having made a proposal to Cimpor for the creation of a strategic, industrial and technical partnership.

This proposal for a partnership includes value creating elements for international development and action programmes making it possible to exploit the significant potential synergies that exist between the two groups.

As expressed publicly by Lafarge since the beginning of the privatisation process, this partnership proposal puts the two Groups on an equal footing and guarantees the independence and the Portuguese identity of Cimpor.

A copy of Lafarge's proposal has been sent to the Portuguese Government and to all major shareholders who have taken a position on preserving Cimpor's identity.

In effect, Lafarge undertakes to negotiate and implement the partnership contract with the Cimpor's Board as soon as it has been renewed and provided that it reflects a stable majority with a strong Portuguese element representative of those shareholders who have expressed themselves in favour of preserving the company's Portuguese identity.

Already having the maximum number of voting rights authorised by the by-laws of Cimpor (10%) and having in mind to retain them, Lafarge does not consider necessary an increase in its holdings in order to implement its proposed partnership.

By announcing an ambitious plan for Cimpor, Lafarge is re-affirming its commitment to work alongside a major Portuguese Group that needs to continue its development.

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