



GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE

Paris, 30th October 2008

RETAILERS, MANUFACTURERS AND FOOD SERVICE JOIN FORCES GLOBALLY TO ENSURE SAFE FOOD FOR CONSUMERS

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), managed by CIES – The Food Business Forum, announced today that a new governance structure has been created for the GFSI Board of Directors.

- **JP Suarez**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, International Division, **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**, has been elected to serve as the new GFSI Chairman for a one year term of office. JP Suarez replaces Roland Vaxelaire, Director of Risk, Responsibility and Quality, Carrefour Group in this position.
- **Yves Rey**, Corporate Quality General Manager, **Danone Group** and **Cindy Jiang**, Director, Worldwide Quality, Food Safety, and Nutrition, **McDonald's Corporation**, USA have been elected to serve as Vice-Chairs for a two-year term of office.

Through a recent strategic alliance with the food service sector and closer collaboration with food manufacturers, the GFSI has been greatly strengthened and this new governance structure reflects the importance and balance of these supply chain partners in the work of GFSI.

JP Suarez said “By creating the position of Vice-Chair to support the role of the GFSI Chairman, we will ensure that the key partners in the supply chain are equally represented in the decision-making process of the GFSI Board of Directors, in their drive for further harmonisation of best food safety practice and use of common food safety standards world-wide.”

The GFSI Board of Directors is now composed of the following companies, reflecting this transition phase, as more food service and manufacturers become involved.

- Terry BABBS, International Trading Law and Technical Director, Tesco Plc, UK
- Hugo BYRNES, Product Safety and Consumer Affairs Director, Royal Ahold, Netherlands
- Marcos CAMPOS, Quality Assurance Director, Bertin SA, Brazil
- Kevin CHEN, Vice President, China Resources Vanguard Co.,Ltd., P.R. China
- D.V DARSHANE, Director Policy & Standards, Global Quality, The Coca-Cola Company, USA
- Bryan FARNSWORTH, VP Quality Management, Hormel Foods Corporation, USA
- Hervé GOMICHOIN, Quality Director, Carrefour Group
- Cory HEDMAN, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Director, Hannaford Bros. Co. (Delhaize Group), USA
- Cindy JIANG, Director, Worldwide Quality, Food Safety, and Nutrition, McDonald's Corporation, USA

- Hans-Jürgen MATERN, Division Manager Quality Assurance, Metro AG, Germany
- Payton PRUETT, Vice President, Corporate Food Technology & Regulatory Compliance, The Kroger Co., USA
- Yves REY, Corporate Quality General Manager, Danone Group
- John P. SUAREZ, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, International Division, Wal-Mart Stores, INC.
- Johann ZÜBLIN, Head of Standards & Social Compliance, Federation Of Migros Cooperatives, Switzerland

GFSI continues to grow in importance in the world of food safety internationally, with the alignment in 2007 of four major food safety management schemes with its Guidance Document (BRC, Dutch HACCP, IFS and SQF) and the common acceptance of these standards by 8 major international retailers (Carrefour, Delhaize, Metro, Migros, Royal Ahold, ICA, Tesco and Wal-Mart).

The GFSI, managed by CIES - The Food Business Forum, was set up in 2000 to pursue continuous improvement in food safety management systems, cost efficiency in the supply chain and, above all, safe food for consumers worldwide.

For more information, please contact:

Catherine François
Director, Food Safety Programmes
CIES - The Food Business Forum
c.francois@ciesnet.com

Anne Malbrancq
Press Contact
CIES - The Food Business Forum
a.malbrancq@ciesnet.com