12m





CLOSING PRICE* **EUR28.2**VALUATION (UPSIDE) **EUR40** (+42%) **- EUR47** (+67%)

 VALUATION RANGE
 EPS 24e
 EPS 25e

 unchanged
 7 4%
 ¥ -12%
 7 3%

Momentum weighs despite undemanding valuation

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A transitional year ahead due to weaker demand

We assessed the health of COM end markets. Our deep dive shows that demand is slowing, with AG in the midst of a cyclical downturn, while construction activity lacks momentum. The result of these two factors is a decelerating top line that we expect to be down 7% organically in 2024e (vs c.2% in 2023e). As such, we cut our 2024e estimates by 12%, and we position ourselves c.8% below cons. EBITDA for next year.

Share gain to continue with 15% ROCE in 2025e...

Looking beyond the ST demand weakness, we believe the share gain story is not over and margins will be structurally higher, so we fine-tuned our 2025e numbers. We expect COM to outperform its reference markets in 2025/26e, with profitability expansion translating into 15% ROCE in 2025e.

...and M&A potentially coming on top

*Closing Price (11 January 2024)

With an unlevered BS, COM's war chest (EUR600m-800m, by our estimate) would be able to digest a large size deal and accelerate its product range expansion.

Upper-end of valuation raised. New FV range at EUR40-47/sh

COM lagged vs the rest of the EU Mid Cap sector as momentum in AG turned negative in H2. We increased the high-end of our FV range due to market share growth and MT profitability. The stock is trading at a 20% discount (on 2024e) vs its closest peers. Current valuation looks undemanding, as the market is pricing in a sharper downturn while overlooking the improved market share and margins prospects. We are confident on the MT strategy, but subdued earnings momentum may weigh on a ST rerating, so we view M&A as the major catalyst ahead.

Performance⁽¹⁾

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Market cap (EURm) Free float (EURm) EV (EURm) 3m avg volume (EURm) Refinitiv / Bloomberg Country / Sub Sector			COME.MI Industrial N		Absolute(%) Rel. Capital Goods(%) Rel. MSCI Small Cap(%)	(5) (4) (4)	(2) (1) (3)	3 (9) (5)	(1) (16) (6)
Financials	12/23e	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e	Valuation metrics(2)	12/23e	12/24e	12/25e	12/26e
EPS, Adjusted (EUR)	3.69	3.32	4.04	4.64	P/E (x)	8.2	8.5	7.0	6.1
EPS, Company (EUR)	3.20	2.83	3.54	4.15	Net yield (%)	2.7	2.8	3.6	4.2
EPS - Refinitiv (EUR)	3.77	3.76	3.92	-	FCF yield (%)	14.1	13.9	12.4	14.2
Net dividend (EUR)	0.80	0.80	1.00	1.18	EV/Sales (x)	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6
					EV/EBITDA (x)	5.6	5.3	4.2	3.4
Sales (EURm)	1,214	1,135	1,240	1,343	EV/EBITA (x)	7.1	7.0	5.4	4.2
EBITA, Adj. (EURm)	158.8	141.7	169.4	193.8	EV/CE (x)	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0
Net profit, Adj.(EURm)	106.0	95.3	115.7	133.2					
ROCE (%)	13.6	12.7	15.1	17.2					
Net Debt/EBITDA, Adj. (x)	0.5	0.1	-	-	All valuation metrics base	ed on adj	usted figu	ires	
Source: BNP Paribas Exane (esti	mates). Refi	nitiv (conser	nsus) (1) l	n listina currer	cv. with dividend reinvested (2)	Yearly ave	rage price t	or FY ende	d 12/23

EUR28.2

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Price at 11 Jan. 24: EUR28.2

Valuation range (EUR): 40.0 (+42%) | 47.0 (+67%)

COMER INDUSTRIES

Refinitiv / Bloomberg: COME.MI / COM IM Company Highlights Enterprise value aldi (+39) 02 8963 1735 & Baldelli (+39) 02 8963 1744 Industrial Machinery | Capital Goods - Italy FUR MARKE Market capitalisation 809 155 Free float 3m average volume Performance (*) 12m 20. (2%) NC NC Absolute 3% NC (1%) NC 12m Hi/Lo (EUR) : 35. CAGR EPS restated 29% CFPS tive to MS Price (yearly avg from Dec PER SHARE DATA (EUR) Dec. 17 Dec. 20 Dec. 23e Dec. 16 Dec. 18 Dec. 19 ' Dec. 21 Dec. 22 No of shares year end, basic, (m) Avg no of shares, diluted, excl. treasury stocks (m) EPS reported, Gaap 28.678 3.16 3.16 3.43 3.20 3.20 3.69 EPS company definition EPS restated, fully diluted 1.13 4.64 1.37 1.20 0.90 1.93 4.04 % change Book value (BVPS) (a) NC (55.3%) 84.0% 6.3% (25.0%) 17.8% 81.8% 77.3% 7.8% (10.1%) 21.5% 15.1% 5.2 6.3 12.1 15.5 17.9 22.7 25.8 STOCKMARKET RATIOS Dec. 17 Dec. 18 Dec. 20 ec. 21 Dec. 22 c. 25e c. 26e P / E (P/ EPS restated) P / E relative to MSCI Small Cap 13.4x 78% 4.4% 8.2 10.6% 7.0% 1.72x FCF yield P / BVPS 1.24x 1.91x 1.51x 1.895 1.68x 1.41x 1.09x Net vield 2.9% 4.7% 2.2% 2.8% 2.7% 2.8% 3.6% 4.2% 0.87 25.3% 0.61x 3.4x 4.2x 6.0x 4.6x / Restated EBITDA (**) / Restated EBITA / NOPAT / OpFCF 6.5x 10.4x 14.4x 11.2x 6.0x 7.6x 10.6x 10.3x 10.95 EV / Capital employed (incl. gross go ENTERPRISE VALUE (EURm) 840 291 234 1,080 1,133 909 823 Market cap + Adjusted net debt (including lease liability) + Other liabilities and commitments + Revalued minority interests 809 (64) 166 37 16 55 41 193 - Revalued investments P & L HIGHLIGHTS (EURm) Dec. 15 Dec. 16 Dec. 17 Dec. 18 ec. 19 ° Dec. 20 Dec. 26e lec. 21 Dec. 22 Dec. 23e c. 25e 404.6 44.9 (16.9) 28.1 27.8 (1.3) 1,134.8 Sales Restated EBITDA (b) (**) 1,214.2 21.4 (11.0) 10.4 10.4 (1.3) 21.4 (11.6) 9.9 9.8 0.6 77.2 (20.4) 56.8 56.8 (2.0) (42.6) 158.8 138.8 (12.1) (12.7 30.5 30.4 (1.0) (45.3) 141.7 121.7 (7.5) 25.0 24.9 (2.1) Restated EBITA (b) 142.8 Reported operating profit (loss) Net financial income (charges) 127.5 xclusiv (0.4)(6.4)(6.2)(9.6)Affiliates 0.0 Other 0.0 0.0 (0.9) 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 (3.8) 0.0 6.7 (41.5) 0.0 101.5 (7.6) 0.0 21.8 Tax (5.3)(7.1) (15.4)(34.2) (37.5)(33.1) (48.6) 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 90.7 Net attributable profit reported 15.7 Net attributable profit restated (c) CASH FLOW HIGHLIGHTS (EURm) EBITDA (reported) (**) EBITDA adjustment (b) (0.7) 29.8 45.7 (0.7) 48.6 78.2 180.0 (0.2) 187.2 (0.2) (0.2) 0.2 13.6 200.8 (37.9) 162.9 Other items (1.5) (23.8) 3.9 (0.1) (8.5) 5.7 12.7 16.0 0.2 0.2 0.2 (5.9) 43.5 (17.4) 26.1 (15.3) 10.8 (18.0) 199.3 (41.4) 157.9 (57.8) 100.1 Change in WCR Operating cash flow 8.9 25.5 227.1 15.9 42.1 29.0 61.1 92.6 138.3 224.4 (12.2) 29.9 (6.0) 23.9 (14.3) 1.6 (3.8) (2.2) 73.0 (23.0) 50.0 (33.9) 104.4 (50.7) 53.7 (47.9) (16.6) (15.4) (44.9) 13.6 (8.3) 5.3 Operating free cash flow (OpFCF) 179.5 Net financial items (d) + tax paid Free cash flow (4.3) (17.1) (57.0) 122.3 (0.2) (6.7) (4.6) (14.3) Net financial investments & acquisitions 2.8 3.2 37.8 2.6 1.5 (191.8)(54.0)0.0 0.0 (20.2) (22.7) 0.0 (0.7)(35.9) 0.0 0.0 0.0 Capital increase (decrease) 3.5 0.0 (4.9)0.4 (3.2)0.0 0.0 0.0 Dividends paid (5.0) (45.5) (3.5) (12.2) (10.2) (21.5) (23.0) (23.0) (28.8) Increase (decrease) in net financial debt (7.6) (27.9) (14.6) (77.1) Cash flow, group share BALANCE SHEET HIGHLIGHTS (EURm) Net operating assets 234 Restated capital employed, incl. gross goodwill 132 130 122 135 170 154 703 803 826 795 801 Shareholders' funds, group share Minorities 76 0 89 129 143 346 444 514 651 741 Provisions/ Other liabilities Net financial debt (cash) FINANCIAL RATIOS (%) 224 248 248 c. 22 Sales (% change) Organic sales growth Restated EBITA (% change) (7.7%) 42.79 14.39 (5.2%) 73.6% 45.7% 12.3% 8.7% 86.3% 151.5% 11.2% 19.6% 14.4% Restated attributable net profit (% change)
Personnel costs / Sales
Restated EBITDA margin (**)
Restated EBITA margin 18.0% 16.9% 12.1% 7.7% 26.0% 81.8% 14.5% 12.9% 9.5% 28.1% 20.7% 16.6% 13.1% 29.0% Tax rate Net margin Capex / Sales OpFCF / Sales 4.4% 2.0% 3.3% 4.3% 4.6% 5.5% 6.7% 3.3% 7.9% 3.9% 9.3% 9.9% 0.5% (4.2%) 8.8% 3.6% 6.4% 12.1% 12.2% 8.4% 14.8% 14.4% 12.7% 13.4% 17.2% 40.3% 20.6% 20% 21.0x 17.2% 39.0% 18.0% WCR / Sales 24.3% 24.0% 19.4% 20.6% 20.9% 18.6% 28.4% 18.9% 17.2% Capital employed (excl. gdw ./intangibles) / Sale 41.2% 8.6% 34.5% 34% 24.2x Adjusted financial debt (A)+(B) / EBITDA (**)
ROCE, excl. gdw ./intangibles 0.5x 23.1% ROCE, incl. gross goodwill 5.4% 5.2% 9.9% 13.3% 11.9% 14.3% 5.8% 12.6% 13.6% 12.7% 15.1% 17.2%

(a) Intangibles: EUR357.27m, or EUR12 per share. (b) adjusted for capital gains/losses, exceptional restructuring charges, capitalized R&D; EBITA also adjusted for impairments and am, of intangibles from M&A (c) after EBITA adjustments and financial result/tax adjustments (d) including lease principal post FRS 16 (*) In listing currency, with div. reinvested, (**) EBITDAR post FRS16, (1) First application of FRS 16

10.0%

9.8%

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Exclusive use of Alessandro BRIZZI

Valuation

With share price flat in the past 12M, COM lagged the rest of the EU Mid Cap sector as momentum in AG turned negative. Our FV range points to EUR40-47/sh. The current valuation remains undemanding, with the market pricing in a sharper downturn and overlooking solid MT prospects. In the context of subdued earnings momentum, M&A may help rerating.

COM shares underperformed closest peers...

COM has been able to capitalise on the strong growth of AG equipment, helped by rising soft commodity prices. The stock outperformed the average for the cap goods sector until H2 23, while the sharp recent underperformance was linked to deterioration of the AG demand.

Figure 1: COM underperformed cap goods from H2 23... Comer Industries SpA vs Capital Goods



Source: BNP Paribas Exane, Factset Estimates, MSCI

From a valuation standpoint, COM continues to trade at a remarkable (i.e., 50%) discount vs its closest peers in the cap goods space on both the EV/EBIT and PE metrics. The discount widened this year as COM's share price lagged vs its closes peers.

Figure 2: ...but remains at 50% discount vs its closest peers



Comer peers is a basket comprising the following companies weighted equally: Interpump, Dana, Bucher Industries, Jost Source: Exane BNP Paribas, Factset Estimates, MSCI

...and trade at 20% discount vs sector; peer-based valuation points to EUR40/sh

As we discussed in our initiating coverage, there is no pure comparable to COM in terms of products, end-markets, or geographical presence. We therefore use a panel of selected players operating both in the agriculture and/or construction equipment market as component suppliers. We do not look at the OEMs involved in those markets when valuing Comer, given the differences in business models.

Figure 3: Comer trades at almost 20% discount vs peer suppliers

COMER peer panel overview

52222	17/20	Market	P/E(x)			EV/EBIT(x)		EEST margin (50)		EV / Selec (x)		0	Organio cales growth			Net debilitation			
Company		Cap	2023e	2024e	20260	1922#	2024e	20260	2025s	20240	29266	2023#	2024e	20260	20230	20246	2025e	2023a	2023a
Supliers																			
DANA	4007	1779	19.1x	10.4x	8.5x	11.1x	8.7x	7.4x	4.0%	4.5%	4.9%	0.4x	0.4x	0.4x	4.7%	5.8%	4.5%	2.8x	2.5x
INTERPUMP	5055	4833	17.4x	17.1x	16.4x	12.7x	12.0x	11.0x	18.9%	18.5%	.18.5%	2.4x	2.2x	2.0x	6.7%	-1.5%	4.0%	1.2x	0.9x
JOSTWERKE	855	630	7.78	8.1x	7.4x	8.1x	7.6x	6.4x	8.4%	8.0%	8.3%	0.7x	0.5x	0.5x	-0.5%	0.5%	2.1%	1.4x	0.9x
BUCHER INDUSTRIES	3158	3674	10.8x	13.5x	12.9x	7.2x	8.5x	7.9x	12:0%	10.5%	10.7%	0.9x	0.9x	0.88	1.196	-8.1%	2.0%	-1.0x	-1.5x
Median	100000	-	14.1x	11.9x	10.7x	9.6x	8.6x	7.6x	10.2%	9.2%	9.5%	0.8x	0.7x	0.7x	2.9%	-0.5%	3.1%	1.3x	0.9x
COMER	932	\$06.9	8.2x	8.5×	7:0x	7.fx	6.9x	5.3x	13.1%	12.5%	12.7%	0.9x	0.9x	0.7x	-2.3%	-6.7%	9.3%	0.8x	0.5x
% discount (premium) vs suppliers			(4296)	(29%)	(35%)	(26%)	(1996)	(30%)				21%	16%	6%					

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, Thomson Reuters Datastream

We see the following factors as differentiating COM from its closest peers:

- (+) Stronger MT growth supported by market share gains and potential upside of the Precision AG outsourcing and CE electrification.
- (+) margin expansion potential driven by synergies extraction.
- (-) limited liquidity vs its peers because of low turnover and free float.

In our view, COM's MT growth and margin expansion potential deserve a premium vous the other components makers. We also acknowledge that liquidity is thin and that this is a drag on the appeal of the share, especially in the current market conditions.

For the time being, we therefore decided to price COM in line with the peer panel (made be collected CF and AG suppliers). We do not rule out that a potential improvement in the future. For valuing the liquidity of the share may lead us to be more constructive in the future. For valuing COM, we look at the EBIT multiple, as it removes the bias of the leverage and the different capital intensity. We therefore used 9-8x on 2024-25e EBIT for COM, and this returns a fair value of EUR40/share (unchanged).

Figure 4: We price COM in line with peers

Peers based methodology

	EV/I	EBIT
Valuation summary	2024e	2025e
Median	9x	8x
Premium	0%	0%
Fair multiple	9x	8x
EBNP Adj. EBIT	142	169
EV	1232	1355
- Net debt (exclufing IFRS 16)	45	122
- Adjusted lease liability	(58)	(58)
- Other liabilities and commitments	(166)	(166)
- Revalued minority interests	0	0
+ (Assoc. + revalued investments)	2	2
Equity Value	1055	1254
Liquidity discount	0%	0%
Nosh	28.7	28.7
Equity value per share	37	44
FV		40

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

DCF valuation points to EU 47/sh

Our DCF valuation – based on a WACC @ 9.8% and LT growth at 2.5%, together with a 15% liquidity discount – points to EUR47/sh vs EUR45/sh previously, as it now reflects higher MT growth and profitability.

As we will discuss in the next sections, we forecast COMER to post c.3% top-line CAGR in 2023-26e, generating HSD average operating profit growth in the next three years.

Given that both markets (agro and CE) are mature in developed countries, we assume that long-term growth will be sustained only by emerging markets, and thus assume LSD growth after 2026e.

We project capex/sales to stay close to the level of 4% to fuel the expected growth in the next few years. We expect the NWC/sales ratio to stay around 17%, implying a normalised trade working capital/sales ratio of c.20%.

Figure 5: DCF valuation points to EUR47/sh (vs former EUR45/sh)

	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24	Dec-25	Dec-26	Dec-27	Dec-28	Terminal
Sales	396.2	598.1	1,237.6	1,214.2	1,134.8	1,239.9	1,343.2	1,377.6	1,412.8	1,448.1
% YoY growth		51.0%	106.9%	-1.9%	-6.5%	9.3%	8.3%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%
Restated EBITDA	47.8	77.2	179.7	201.4	186.9	217.1	241.9	247.8	253.8	260.2
% YoY growth		61.5%	132.9%	12.1%	-7.2%	16.2%	11.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%
% margin	12.1%	12.9%	14.5%	16.6%	16.5%	17.5%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%
Restated EBIT	30.5	56.8	142.8	158.8	141.7	169.4	193.8	198.9	202.5	207.6
% YoY growth		86.3%	151.5%	11.2%	-10.8%	19.6%	14.4%	2.6%	1.8%	2.5%
% margin	7.7%	9.5%	11.5%	13.1%	12.5%	13.7%	14.4%	14.4%	14.3%	14.3%
Taxrate	28.0%	28.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%
NOPAT	21.9	40.9	101.4	112.8	100.6	120.3	137.6	141.2	143.8	147.4
WC change	(73.7)	(96.4)	(63.8)	25.5	13.6	(18.0)	(17.7)	(5.9)	(6.1)	(6.1)
wc s	73.7	170.1	233.9	208.4	194.8	212.8	230.6	236.5	242.5	248.6
WC / Sales (%)	18.6%	28.4%	18.9%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%
D&A including RoU, excl PPA & cap. dev. costs	17.3	20.4	37.0	42.6	45.3	47.8	48.1	48.9	51.3	52.6
D&A / Sales (%)	4.4%	3.4%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%
Capex	(13.1)	(19.6)	(33.9)	(47.9)	(37.9)	(41.4)	(44.9)	(46.0)	(47.2)	(49.1)
Capex / Sales (%)	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%	3.9%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.4%
Operating FCF	A W		71.	50.	121.6	108.5	123.0	138.2	141.8	144.9
Terminal Value	11 0									1980
Discount factor					1.0	0.9	8.0	8.0	0.7	
Discounted FCF					121.6	99.1	102.3	104.6	97.7	

2024-2028 Discounted FCF	525
Discounted terminal value	1364
Enterprise Value	1890
- 2023 Net debt restated	44
- Adjusted lease liability	91
- Other liabilities and commitments	166
- Revalued minority interests	0
+ (Assoc. + revalued investments)	2
Equity value	1589
Diluted shares (m)	28.7
Liquidty discount	15%
Value per share	47

Wacc 9.8% LT growth 2.5%

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

In the Enterprise to Equity Value bridge, we have capitalized the lease liabilities at our usual multiple of 8x the annual P&L charge of the Right Of Use, which we think provides a better estimate of the equivalent lease liability from a valuation point of view.

This differs from the value on the company's balance sheet, as it is independent of the duration of the lease contracts and, in our view, better mirrors the "real" liability should the company switch to purchasing the same assets.

Finally, we have added a 15% discount as, despite being recently improved (after WPG placement), liquidity remains thin.

Market is pricing in sharp downturn and no share gains

We have built a reverse DCF valuation to see what the market is pricing in, even accounting for some liquidity discount. The result of this exercise shows that the current share price implies a sharp business deterioration in 2024e (i.e., 12% sales drop) with profitability returning to 2022 levels (i.e., c.11% adj. EBIT margin) in the MT. These assumptions are, in our view, excessively conservative, ignoring the structural effects of the synergies and assuming no share gains going forward.

Figure 6: Market is pricing in excessively conservative assumptions

Reverse DCF assumptions

	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23	Dec-24	Dec-25	Dec-26	Dec-27	Dec-28	Terminal
Sales	598.1	1,237.6	1,214.2	1,068.5	1,111.2	1,139.0	1,167.5	1,196.7	1,226.6
% YoY growth	51.0%	106.9%	-1.9%	-12.0%	4.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
EBIT	56.8	142.8	158.8	103.6	114.3	119.9	125.6	131.4	134.7
% YoY growth	86.9%	151.5%	11.2%	-34.7%	10.3%	4.9%	4.8%	4.6%	2.5%
% margin	9.5%	11.5%	13.1%	9.7%	10.3%	10.5%	10.8%	11.0%	11.0%
Tax rate	28.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%	29.0%
NOPAT	40.9	101.4	112.8	73.6	81.2	85.1	89.2	93.3	95.6
WC change	(98.4)	(83.8)	25.5	25.0	(7.3)	(4.8)	(4.9)	(5.0)	(5.1)
wc	170.1	233.9	208.4	183.4	190.8	195.5	200.4	205.4	210.6
WC / Sales (%)	28.4%	18.9%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%	17.2%
D&A including RoU	20.4	37.0	42.6	45.3	47.8	48.1	48.9	51.3	52.6
D&A/Sales (%)	3.4%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%
Capex	(19.8)	(33.9)	(47.9)	(37.9)	(41.4)	(44.9)	(48.0)	(47.2)	(49.1)
Capex/Sales (%)	-3.3%	-2.7%	-3.9%	-3.5%	-3.7%	-3.9%	-3.9%	-3.9%	-4.0%
Operating FCF				106.0	80.2	83.5	87.1	92.4	94.0
Terminal Value									1285
Discounted FCF				106.2	73.2	69.5	66.0	63.7	

	2024-2028 Discounted FCF	378.5
	Discounted terminal value	885.8
	Enterprise Value	1264.3
	- 2023 Net debt restated	44
	- Adjusted lease liability	91
	- Other liabilities and commitments	166
	- Revalued minority interests	0
	+ (Assoc. + revalued investments)	2
The state of the s	Equity value	964
The second secon	Diluted shares (m)	29
1 1	Liquidity discount	15%
	Value per share	28
EXCIT	Source: BNP Paribas Exane	estimates

A slowdown is underway

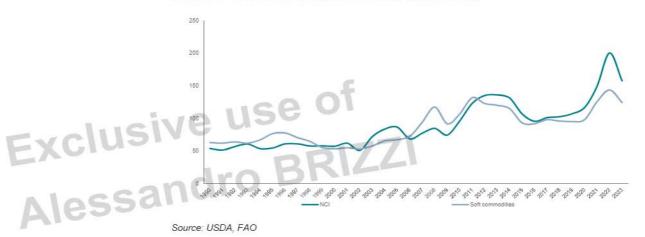
2024 is set to be a transitional year. Our analysis shows that AG is in the midst of a cyclical downturn (with the hit of destocking yet visible in H2 23), and this couples with a still-weak CE recovery. We believe these two forces translate into weakening momentum in 2024e, with sales down c.7% organically.

The BNP Paribas Exane Wheel | Global Agricultural at 2.00

AG fundamentals are showing signs of deterioration. This is mainly linked to an easing cycle of soft commodities that retraced from 2022 highs. Last year, cash income for US farmers (which are a good proxy for the health of AG customers' incomes) edged down from an ATH to a level that is still healthy.

Figure 7: Farmers' cash income retraces from ATH reflecting lower soft commodities price

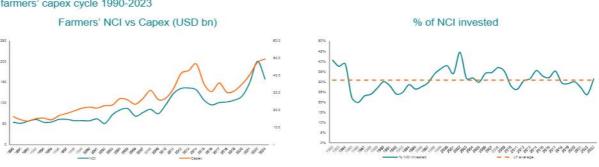
1990-2023 - US Farmers' net cash income, FAO food price index



Looking at the capex cycle, we are close to an inflection point. Last year, the share of the cash earnings invested by farmers reverted to normal levels (c1/3). This supported capex growth (despite lower income) in 2023, but we believe it is unlikely to happen this year.

Figure 8: AG capex peaked in 2023

US farmers' capex cycle 1990-2023



Source: USDA

Short-term leading indicators point to recession...

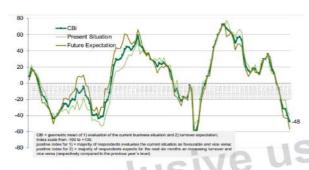
Looking beyond the top-down perspective, the latest leading indicators point to a recessionary scenario. Moderating farm fundamentals and high interest rates are weighing on discretionary equipment purchases.

Looking at the EU market, the general business climate index for the agricultural machinery industry has continued to drop and reached deep recessionary territory in December 2023. More than half of the survey participants consider the current business situation to be unfavourable; in the meantime, two-thirds expect their turnover to decline in the coming six months. For the full year of 2024, the participants of the survey expect their company's turnover to decline MSD (-5% median).

Figure 9: EU leading indicators point to recession in AG machinery demand...

EU AG machinery business dashboard

CEMA Business Climate Index (CBI)





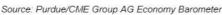
Source: CEMA Business Barometer

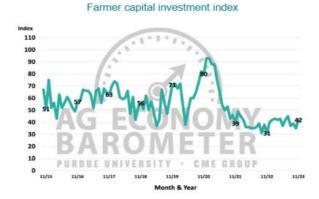
The outlook is more optimistic in the US, with stabilizing momentum for farmer confidence. On the capex front, we saw no major disruptions from leading indicators (despite being close to trough levels). Higher input costs, rising interest rates, and lower crop and/or livestock prices were the main reasons for a more cautious approach in investment decisions.

Figure 10: ...while US is in better shape

US AG machinery business dashboard





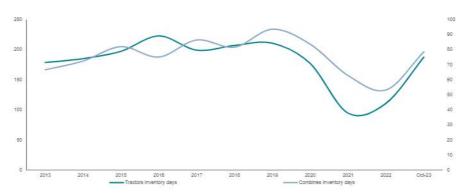


...with demand turning negative next year

In a context of leading indicators pointing to a recessionary scenario, we looked at the level of inventory in the US market. Data suggest that stock is back to normalized levels, so the replenishment of inventory is unlikely to be a buffer for the OEMs into next year.

Figure 11: No relief from dealers' inventory

Tractors and Combines inventory days in NA



Source: Source: Association of Equipment Manufacturers; John Deere

We conclude that the AG market will experience a downturn with generalized weakness across all the main regions. This suggests to us a LDD volume decline in aggregate, a view consistent with guidance from John Deere (not covered) in its 2024 outlook. As such, we would position the AG market at 2.00 on our BNP Paribas Exane Wheel.

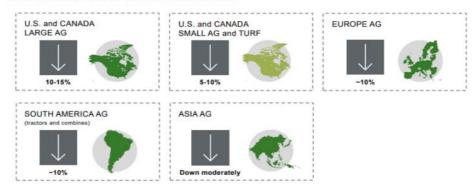
Figure 12: Momentum turns negative for AG in 2024e 2014-2025e NA/SA/Western EU AG units



Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, based on AGCO and JD outlook

Figure 13: John Deere guides for broad-based demand weakness

2024 outlook (in units) for the AG & turf business



Source: John Deere Q4 presentation

The BNP Paribas Exane Wheel | Global Construction at 5.30

As discussed deeply in our most recent wheel (<u>CAPITAL GOODS: The BNPPE Wheel 2024: Strong momentum impulse</u>), global construction markets are in the midst of a cyclical downturn despite gradually improving momentum, as we believe peak decline took place in 2023.

In the EU, construction markets have gone through a sharp downturn, and the majority of lead indicators are far weaker than a year ago. There is little near-term room for optimism, and we suspect 2024 could be worse than 2023. Our team positions the market at 6.00 (the trough on our wheel) and forecasts a 3% y/y volume decline in EU residential markets, a 5% y/y decline in non-residential, and a 2% decline in renovation.



Residential Non-residential Re
Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

In the US, construction has not been immune to the sudden increase in interest rates. Non-residential output surprised to the upside but is in the midst of a deep correction, like the one in Europe, with renovation likely to follow.

After a steep contraction in 2023, recent US residential lead indicator data are becoming less negative, namely new build data. Renovation lead indicator data is now weakening given the lagged effect of lower existing home transactions and consumer sentiment. Non-residential KPIs remain soft.

Our team positions the US market at 2.30 on our wheel and expects the residential market to see a sequentially lower drop (-6%) and renovation to accelerate its pace of decline (-8% y/y vs -4% in 2023), while non-residential growth appears set to ease (2% y/y vs 14% in 2023).

Figure 15: BNPP Exane volume forecasts for construction in 2023-25e

BNPP Exane construction assumptions old vs. new

BNPP Exane volume assumptions by sub-segment



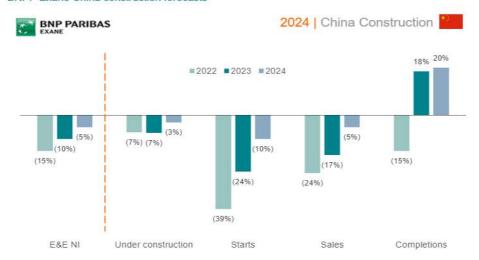


Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

Exclus Alessa

The Chinese construction market has continued its negative trajectory but is now seeing a lower rate of decline, leading us to conclude the market has bottomed. Overall, China construction is ahead in the BNPPE Wheel relative to EU/US both in terms of growth and momentum. Absolute levels of activity remain depressed, but comps are easing. Our team positions the market at 7.00, forecasting a 5% decline in construction activity during 2024

Figure 16: BNPP Exane volume forecasts for construction in 2022-24e BNPP Exane China construction forecasts

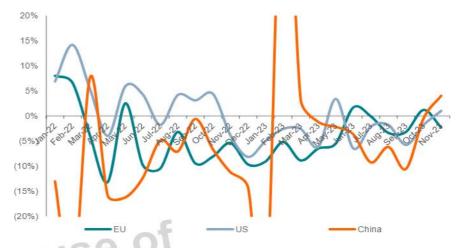


Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, NBS

Improving momentum driven by China

Digging down into the construction activity, the most recent data from Komtrax supports our view. China is showing signs of sequential improvement in machinery usage, while the picture in the EU and US is more muted.

Figure 17: Machinery activity picks up in China, more muted in US/EU 2022-2023 Komtrax index by region



Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates based on Komatsu

Exclusiv Expectations for 2024e reflect this sequential improvement in the overall demand for CE. In its latest outlook, Volvo points to improving demand momentum in China and South America compensating for the effects of the EU and US slowdown.

Figure 18: CE demand momentum improves, with China offsetting EU and US Volvo 2023-2024e CE outlook

		2024e			2023		Δ
	Bear	Base	Bull	Bear	Base	Bull	Base
NA*	-10%	-5%	0%	0%	5%	10%	-10%
SA	0%	5%	10%	-20%	-15%	-10%	20%
EU	-15%	-10%	-5%	-5%	0%	5%	-10%
ASIA (ex-China)	-5%	0%	5%	-5%	0%	5%	0%
China	-10%	-5%	0%	-40%	-35%	-30%	30%
Total	-9%	-4%	1%	-11%	-6%	-1%	2%

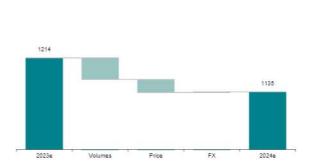
Source: Volvo Q3 investor presentation

Organic to decelerate in 2024e

Against this backdrop, we model for c.4% volume decline in 2024. This is the result of a HSD decline in AG demand and a LSD increase in CE (mainly due to increased market share). On top of that, we would expect pricing to be negative. In our view, COM may pass the tailwinds of the lower input prices (iron and steel) on to clients, leading to a sequential organic decline that we expect to be down c.7% (vs c2% in 2023).







2023e-2024e sales bridge

EXCLUSIVE BRIZZI

Share gains push up returns

With this report, we rebased our numbers, factoring in the cyclical slowdown of COM's end markets. Overall, we cut our 2024e numbers by c.12%, and we position ourselves c.8% below cons. EBITDA for next year. That said, we believe the share gain story is not over, and we expect COM to outperform its market in 2025/26e, with structurally higher profitability delivering a DD ROCE.

EBITDA drop due to volume and price/cost spread

We model for a c.7% EBITDA drop in 2024. This would be a result of two main items: volumes (as demand is decelerating, as discussed before) and price-cost spread. On the latter, we would expect COM to pass to clients the tailwinds of the lower costs from raw materials, as OEMs (in their latest commentaries) are likely to focus on cost efficiencies as the demand environment remains lackluster.

Figure 20: We model c.7% EBITDA drop in 2024e 2023e-2024e EBITDA bridge



Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

On a positive note, we still see room for self-help, as there are pockets of cost synergies to extract from the streamlining of production due to the integration of WPG. This translates into a c.12% EPS cut in 2024e, while we confirmed our numbers for 2023.

Figure 21: Estimates cut by 12% in 2024e due to weak demand, while fine-tuned in 2025e Change in 2023-2025e estimates

		31 Dec 24			31 Dec 25	
	Old	New	Revision	Old	New	Revision
Sales	1,203.3	1,134.8	(6%)	1,254.4	1,239.9	(1%)
BNPPe EBITDA	203.2	186.9	(8%)	211.7	217.1	3%
BNPPe EBIT	159.5	141.7	(11%)	165.7	169.4	2%
BNPPe Net profit	107.8	95.3	(12%)	112.3	115.7	3%

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

We now position our numbers c.18% below cons. for this year, though we acknowledge that the number of brokers covering the stock is limited (three, including us). Our more cautious stance mainly reflects our lower conviction around volume development.

Figure 22: We are c8% below cons. EBITDA in 2024e BNPPe vs Consensus*

		2024e	
	BNPPe	Cons	Δ%
Sales	1135	1258	-10%
EBITDA % margin	187 16.5%	203 16.1%	-8%
EBIT	122	150	-19%
% sales	10.7%	11.9%	
Net income	81	99	-18%

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, * Consensus calculated taking the average of the most recent published research on Borsa Italiana Nov 2023

Share gain story continues beyond ST demand weakness

Looking beyond the ST weak demand, we expect COM to continue to outperform its market in 2025/2026e, with more than half of the HSD growth backed by share gains (mainly in the Industrial segment).

Figure 23: We model for HSD organic growth in 2025/2026e...

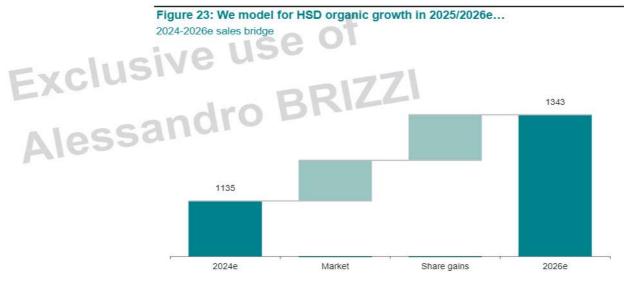
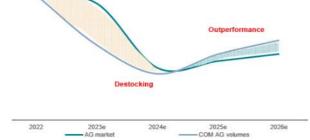


Figure 24: ...with more than half of that driven by share gains

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

2022-2026e AG market vs COM AG volumes 2022-2026e CE market and outperformance

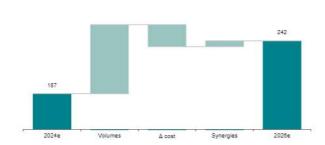


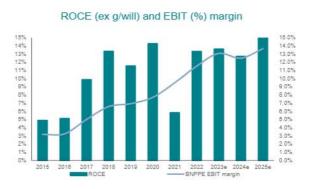
Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, based on Volvo and JD market data

As such, we expect COM to post DD EBITDA growth after 2024, with a level of ROCE that should be 15%. We believe the company can benefit from a structurally higher level of profitability, as there are still pockets of synergies to be found in the streamlining of the production process.

Figure 25: DD EBITDA CAGR by 2026e with ROCE 15%

2024-2026e EBITDA bridge





Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

A summary of our forecasts is provided in the table below.

Figure 26: We expect growth resurgence from 2024e and DD EPS growth in 2024-2026e 2015-2026e KPIs

EURm	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2023-26e
Sales	328	304	342	379	405	396	598	1238	1214	1135	1240	1343	3%
Organic growth	-8%	-7%	13%	13%	6%	-1%	43%	14%	-2%	-7%	9%	8%	3%
YoY growth	-9%	-7%	13%	11%	7%	-2%	51%	107%	-2%	-7%	9%	8%	
EBITDA	22	22	30	38	46	49	78	180	202	187	217	242	6%
% Margin	6.8%	7.2%	8.7%	10.1%	11.3%	12.3%	13.1%	14.5%	16.6%	16.5%	17.5%	18.0%	
BNPPE EBITDA	21	21	29	38	45	48	77	180	201	187	217	244	7%
%Margin	6.5%	7.1%	8.6%	9.9%	11.1%	12.1%	12.9%	14.5%	16.6%	16.5%	17.5%	18.2%	
EBIT	10	10	17	25	28	30	57	128	139	122	149	174	8%
% Margin	3.2%	3.2%	5.0%	6.6%	6.9%	7.7%	9.5%	10.3%	11.4%	10.7%	12.0%	12.9%	
BNPPE EBIT	10	10	17	25	28	30	57	143	159	142	169	194	7%
%Margin	3.2%	3.3%	5.0%	6.6%	6.9%	7.7%	9.5%	11.5%	13.1%	12.5%	13.7%	14.4%	
Net income	13	7	11	16	19	22	39	91	92	81	102	119	9%
BNPPE Net income	14	6	11	16	19	22	40	98	106	95	116	133	8%
Net debt	15.8	55.3	40.7	36.7	29.1	(3.2)	176.8	149.0	102.2	12.9	(64.3)	(150.2)	
Net delet/EDITO	0.74	2.5	4 44	4 0	0.04		2 24	0.0.	0.5	0.4			

Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

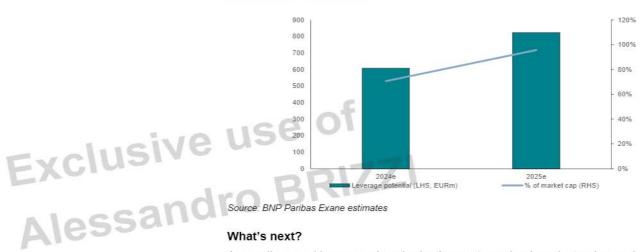
M&A may come on top

We believe M&A represents a catalyst for the MT. COM has the optionality to further extend its product range via M&A and to increase its share of wallet. The current balance sheet is unlevered, and we estimate COM has EUR600m-800m to potentially manage a transformational deal.

Unlevered BS leaves room for another large deal

With around a 0.5x debt/EBITDA ratio (in 2023e), COM has an unlevered balance sheet. We estimate that the group has firepower ranging from EUR600m to around EUR800m available over the next two years (assuming a maximum leverage of 2.0x debt/EBITDA ratio and an acquisition multiple of 8x EBITDA, in line with most recent deals) to implement its external growth strategy.

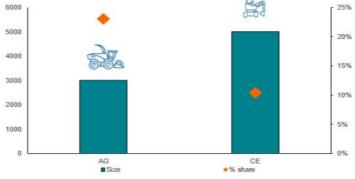
Figure 27: Firepower ranges from EUR600m to around EUR800m 2024-25e Firepower estimate



Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates

As we discussed in our previous in-depth report, mechanics, electronics, and hydraulics are appealing applications by which to extend the product range. By business, we think industrial/CE has a higher chance of seeing a deal materialise, as the addressable market is 50% larger than AG and COM has a lower share of c.10% (vs >20% in AG).

Figure 28: Industrial offers appealing consolidation opportunities



Source: BNP Paribas Exane estimates, based on COM

Investment case, valuation and risks

Comer Industries

Investment case

We expect synergies and further market share growth to result in a positive earnings trajectory, with M&A boost potentially coming on top. With the market ignoring sound MT prospects and structurally higher profitability, the current share price offers an attractive entry point.

Valuation methodology

We base our valuation range on a DCF and on peers' 2024-2025e EV/EBIT multiple.

Risks

To the upside:

Stronger AG and CE equipment market, higher than expected margin expansion thanks to operating leverage, value accretive M&A deal(s)

To the downside:

Cyclical slowdown of its reference markets, price pressure from OEMs



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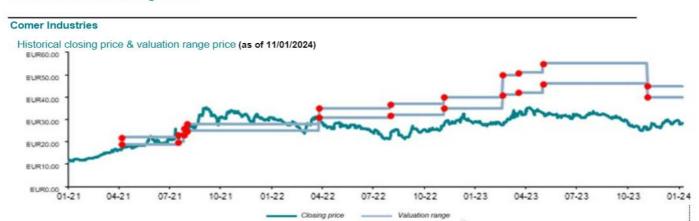
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Exclusive use of Alessandro BRIZZI

Price and Valuation Range Chart



Source: BNP Paribas

Historical rating & valuation range changes

Date & Time of Dissemination (UTC) (1)	Rating	Valuation Range	Closing Price*	 Key Changes 	Person(s) Involved
15 Jan. 2024 (1)	N/A	EUR40.00 EUR40.00	EUR28.20		G. Grimaldi, M. Baldelli
9 Nov. 2023 09:52	N/A	EUR 40.00 45.00	EUR26.00	TP down	G. Grimaldi
5 May 2023 08:18	N/A	EUR 46.00 55.00	EUR32.90	TP up	G. Grimaldi
22 Mar. 2023 06:17	N/A	EUR 42.00 51.00	EUR32.30	TP up	G. Grimaldi
22 Feb. 2023 06:11	N/A	EUR 41.00 50.00	EUR27.40	TP up	G. Grimaldi, M. Baldelli
9 Nov. 2022 05:59	N/A	EUR 35.00 40.00	EUR27.90	TP up	M. Baldelli
5 Aug. 2022 05:57	N/A	EUR 32.00 37.00	EUR22.90	TP up	M. Baldelli
9 Mar. 2022 19:13	N/A	EUR 31.00 35.00	EUR30.20	TP up	M. Baldelli
5 Aug. 2021 14:05	N/A	EUR 25.00 28.00	EUR25.20	TP up	M. Baldelli
30 Jul. 2021 04:56	N/A	EUR 23.00 26.00	EUR23.80	TP up	M. Baldelli
20 Jul. 2021 07:31	N/A	EUR 20.00 23.00	EUR21.80	Valuation change	M. Baldelli
9 Apr. 2021 04:54	N/A	EUR 19.00 22.00	EUR16.70	Enter sponsored list	M. Baldelli

(1) Please refer to the Cube for the dissemination time of this report.

Note:

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ROCE, incl. gross goodwill

WACC

at 11 Jan. 24: EUR28.

COMER INDUSTRIES

Valuation range (EUR): 40.0 (+42%) | 47.0 (+67%) Industrial Machinery | Capital Goods - Italy ldi (+39) 02 8963 1735 & Baldelli (+39) 02 8963 1744 Refinitiv / Bloomberg: COME.MI / COM IM Company Highlights EUR Enterprise value Market capitalisation Free float 986 809 155 25 3m average volume Performance (*) 12m 20 Absolute (2%) NC 3% NC (1%) NC Rel Secto 15 Rei. MSCI Small Cap 12m Hi/Lo (EUR) : 35. CAGR 2016/2023 EPS restated 29% 89 ve to MS Small Car PER SHARE DATA (EUR) Dec. 20 Dec. 15 Dec. 16 Dec. 17 Dec. 18 Dec. 19 1 Dec. 22 Dec. 24 No of shares year end, basic, (m) 10.000 10.000 10.000 17.000 13.500 20.409 28.678 28.678 28.678 28.678 28.678 28.678 28.678 28.67 Avg no of shares, diluted, excl. treasury stocks (m) EPS reported, Gaap 10.000 10.000 20.620 20.650 20.650 28.678 28.678 28.678 3.16 4.15 0.92 EPS company definition 1.30 0.67 1.27 1.43 3.54 EPS restated, fully diluted % change Book value (BVPS) (a) .37 0.61 0.90 1.06 1.93 3 43 3.69 4.04 4.64 84.0% 7.6 (10.1%) 81 12.1 Net dividend STOCKMARKET RATIOS Dec. 15 Dec. 16 Dec. 17 Dec. 18 c. 19 ' ec. 20 ec. 21 ec. 22 c. 23e c. 24e c. 25e c. 26e 20% 15.7% 1.51x 57% 7.0% 1.72x 62% 14.2% 1.09x P / E relative to MSCI Small Cap FCF yield P / BVPS 12.4% 1.24x 14.1% 1.68x 1.91x 1.895 Net yield 2.9% 4.7% 2.2% 2.8% 2.7% 2.8% 3.6% 4.2% Payout EV / Sales EV / Restated EBITDA (**) 38.8% 47.0% 25.6% 21.9% 21.7% 24.9% 25.3% 0.72x 6.5x 10.4x 14.4x 1.40x 10.9x 14.8x 20.5x 5.6x 7.1x 10.0x 4.2x 5.4x 7.6x 6.0x EV / Restated EBITA EV / NOPAT EV / OpFCF 11.5x 11.2x 4.9x 10.3x 6.3x 5.8x 4.6x EV / Capital employed (incl. gro ENTERPRISE VALUE (EURm) 291 234 1 080 1 133 823 809 (64) 166 809 (150) 166 Market cap + Adjusted net debt (including lease liability) 246 808 55 (3) 21 193 166 166 166 + Other liabilities and commit 16 + Revalued minority interests P & L HIGHLIGHTS (EURm) ec. 16 Dec. 17 c 19 ' ec. 20 ec. 21 Dec. 22 Dec. 23e c 25e ec. 26e Sales Restated EBITDA (b) (**) 342.1 29.3 379.0 37.6 404.6 44.9 396.2 47.8 598.1 77.2 1,237.6 179.7 1,214.2 201.4 1,134.8 1,239.9 217.1 1,343.2 241.9 (11.0) (11.6)(12.1) (12.7) (16.9 (20.4)(37.0) (42.6)(45.3) (47.8)(48.1) 141.7 121.7 (7.5) Restated EBITA (b) 10.4 9.9 17.1 28.1 30.5 56.8 142.8 158.8 169.4 193.8 Reported operating profit (loss Net financial income (charges) Affiliates 10.4 9.8 24.9 56.8 127.5 138.8 149 4 173.8 (1.3) (2,1) (6.4) 0.6 6.4 (0.9) (7.1) 0.0 Other (37.5) Tax (3.8)(5.3)(7.1)(7.6)(15.4) (34.2) (33.1) (41.5) (48.6) Minorities 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 Net attributable profit reported 15.7 90.7 91.8 101.5 Net attributable profit restat CASH FLOW HIGHLIGHTS (EU EBITDA (reported) (**) EBITDA adjustment (b) 22.1 22.0 29.8 38.4 45.7 48.6 78.2 180.0 201.7 187.2 217.4 242.1 (0.3) 16.0 (57.4) (0.8) (0.7) (0.2)(0.2 (0.2)(0.2) Other items
Change in WCR
Operating cash flo (1.5) (23.8) 3.9 (0.1) 4.4 5.7 12.7 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 (5.9) 43.5 (17.4) 26.1 (18.0) 199.3 (41.4) 157.9 29.0 227.1 (47.9) 179.3 200.8 (37.9) 162.9 42.1 92.6 138.3 224.4 (14.3) 1.6 Capex (16.6) (12.2)(13.1) 47.9 (19.6) 73.0 (33.9) (44.9) 179.5 Operating free cash flow (OpFCF) (12.8)29.9 13.6 Net financial items (d) + tax paid Free cash flow (3.8) (4.3 (6.0) (8.3) (15.3) (13.9) (23.0) (50.7) 53.7 (57.0) (50.5) (57.8) (64.8) Net financial investments & acquisitions
Other (22 (17.1) 5.3 10.8 34 0 50 0 122 3 112 4 100 1 114 7 (0.2) (6.7) (4.6) (14.3) (54.0) 0.0 0.0 (21.5) (191.8) 2.8 3.2 1.4 (22.7) 30.4 (12.2) 0.4 Capital increase (decrease) 0.0 (3.2)0.0 (23.0) (28.8) (5.0)Dividends paid Increase (decrease) in net financial debt 2.6 39.5 (14.6) (4.0) (7.6)(32.3)180.0 (27.9) (46.8)(89.4) (77.1)(85.9) Cash flow, group share BALANCE SHEET HIGHLIGHTS (EURm) 29 Dec. 18 ec. 16 Dec. 17 Dec. 15 Dec. 19 ° Dec. 20 Dec. 21 Dec. 22 Dec. 23e Net operating assets 234 Restated capital employed, incl. gross goodwill 132 130 122 135 170 154 703 803 826 795 796 801 76 0 13 Shareholders' funds, group share 89 129 143 346 444 514 651 741 0 Minorities Provisions/ Other liabilities 224 248 Net financial debt (cash) FINANCIAL RATIOS (%) (150) c. 26e ec. 18 c. 19 ' ec. 22 ec. 17 ec. 20 c. 23e ec. 21 Sales (% change)
Organic sales grow th
Restated EBITA (% change)
Restated attributable net profit (% change)
Personnel costs / Sales (7.3%) (6.8%) (5.2%) (55.3%) 10.8% 12.6% 2.1% 51.09 14.3% 151.5% 146.2% 19.7% 14.5% 11.2% 7.8% 20.7% 16.6% 73.6% 45.7% 86.3% 19.6% 12.9% Restated EBITDA margin (**) 6.5% 7.1% 8.6% 9.9% 11.1% 12.1% 16.5% 17.5% 18.0% Restated EBITA margin 3.2% 5.0% 6.6% 6.9% 9.5% 11.5% 13.1% 12.5% 13.7% 14.4% 29.0% 9.9% 3.3% 13.4% Tax rate 16.1% 36.1% 31.8% 31.1% 27.8% 26.0% 28.1% 27.4% 29.0% 29.0% 29.0% Net margin Capex / Sales OpFCF / Sales WCR / Sales 6.7% 3.3% 12.2% 7.9% 2.7% 8.4% 18.9% 9.3% 3.3% 12.7% 17.2% 2.0% 5.5% (4.2%) 3.9% 14.8% 17.2% 3.3% 12.1% 19.4% 24.3% 24.0% 20.6% 20.9% 18.6% 28.4% 17.2% Capital employed (excl. gdw./intangibles) / Sales ROE 39.1% 41.2% 8.6% 34.3% 34.5% 18.3% 41.1% 37.9% 15.3% 62.7% 38.0% 40.3% 20.6% 42.1% 16.7% 40.3% 17.8% 39.0% 18.0% Gearing EBITDA / Financial charges (*** 41% 26.9x 23% 32.3x 34% 24.2x 20% 21.0x 53% 51% 2% 25.0x Adjusted financial debt (A)+(B) / EBITDA (**)
ROCE, excl. gdw ./intangibles 0.8x 22.8% 0.5x 23.1% NC 24.1% NC 26.2%

Latest Model update: 12 Jan. 24 m M&A (c) after EBITA adjustments (a) Intangibles: EUR357.27m, or EUR12 per share. (b) adjusted for capital gains/losses, exceptional restructuring charges, capitalized R&D, EBITA also adjusted for impairments and am. of intangibles frought for and financial result/tax adjustments (d) including lease principal post IFRS 18 (*) in listing currency, with div. reinvested, (**) EBITDAR post FRS18, (1) First application of IFRS 18

13.3%

11.9%

14.3%

5.8%

12.6%

9.8%

13.6%

12.7%

9.6%

15.1%

9.6%

17.2% 9.6%

9.9%

5.4%

5.2%