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Merck Prepares Strategic Options for the Consumer Health Business

- **Important step in executing science and technology focused strategy**
- **Next phase to support Consumer Health's successful future development**
- **Early stage in the process with no final decision taken**

Darmstadt, Germany, September 5, 2017 – Merck is preparing strategic options for its Consumer Health business, including a potential full or partial sale of the business as well as strategic partnerships.

“We have continued to transform Merck over the last years into a leading science and technology company. Thereby we regularly review our portfolio in the context of our innovation driven strategy. Healthcare largely focuses on its Biopharma pipeline,” said Stefan Oschmann, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Merck.

“Our Consumer Health portfolio has been continuously enhanced over the past years. We have maintained a solid position in attractive markets, and demonstrated a pattern of profitable growth. We expect increasing internal constraints to fund the business to reach the required scale. Fully anticipating this, we are preparing strategic options,” said Belén Garijo, Member of the Executive Board of Merck and CEO Healthcare.

Consumer Health is running a strong international business with a number of leading products in attractive Over-the-Counter (OTC) categories. The business

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focuses on consumer-centric solutions driven by global megatrends and achieved net sales of €860 million in 2016. With well-recognized and highly respected brands and products such as Bion[®], Femibion[®], Nasivin[®], Neurobion[®], and Seven Seas[®], Consumer Health has a diversified product portfolio and strong market positions both in developed and emerging markets.

Merck has consistently shifted towards becoming a leading science and technology company. Key milestones such as the acquisitions of Sigma-Aldrich, AZ Electronic Materials and Millipore, the divestment of its Biosimilars business as well as the ongoing strategic portfolio shift within the Healthcare business sector have supported this strategy. Recent approvals of Bavencio[®] (Avelumab) in the area of immuno-oncology and Mavenclad[®] (Cladribine tablets) for the treatment of highly active relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS) are examples of Merck's successful development of innovative medicines. The pipeline of other highly promising active ingredients in oncology, immuno-oncology and immunology remains very attractive.

Any possible proceeds from a potential transaction would be used to deliver on the company's overall financial targets.

Disclaimer

The process is at a very early stage and there can be no certainty that it will result in any concrete strategic option. Any development will be subject to further, detailed analysis and a final decision by the Executive Board of Merck and other relevant bodies.

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About Merck

Merck is a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 50,000 employees work to further develop technologies that improve and enhance life – from biopharmaceutical therapies to treat cancer or multiple sclerosis, cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production, to liquid crystals for smartphones and LCD televisions. In 2016, Merck generated sales of € 15.0 billion in 66 countries.

Founded in 1668, Merck is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company. The founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed corporate group. Merck holds the global rights to the Merck name and brand. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the company operates as EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Performance Materials.