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Sale to Frantschach completed

The sale to Frantschach of AssiDomän's sack operations, Dynäs and Sepap paper mills and the Barrier Coating business area, which was agreed in May, was completed today. The deal was given an unconditional go-ahead by the EU Commission at the start of August.

The units that have been sold accounted for around 20% of Group sales and 21% of Group operating profit in the first six months of 2000. The sale is an important step in the Group's strategy of concentrating operations on the sectors where AssiDomän has a competitive structure.

The purchase price is around SEK 4,500 million (between 550 and 565 million euros, depending on the profit performance of the sold units). Overall, the sale is expected to have a net positive effect after tax of around SEK 665 million in 2000. This corresponds to around SEK 5.60 per share. As previously announced, the intention is to transfer the major part of the proceeds of SEK 4,500 million to AssiDomän's shareholders.

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