



## PRESS RELEASE

## Eurovia (VINCI Group) and Van Wellen become partners to build a strategic centre for the storage, processing and distribution of construction materials 20 May 2005

Eurovia and Van Wellen have together formed a new company, AST (Antwerp Stone Terminal), to build a major port facility for the storage, processing and sale of construction materials. Its location in the Port of Antwerp at the Doeldok (Beveren) will make it a strategic centre for the distribution of materials in the markets of Northern Europe, where there is a shortage of natural resources.

Located in the Port of Antwerp at Doeldok (Beveren), this facility will be able to store 300,000 tonnes of materials from July 2005. Materials will be delivered to it by sea and shipments of 72,000 tonnes will be unloaded and stored automatically at the rate of 6,000 tonnes an hour.

The materials will come from quarries located in Scotland, for granite, and Norway, for sandstone, in particular from a Scandinavian site that will be operated by Eurovia from 2007. These aggregates will have mechanical properties, including a high polished stone value, that make them very attractive and effective when laying high skid resistance road surfacings.

Delivered pre-crushed and processed to the Antwerp site, the aggregates will be sold in several countries including Germany, Belgium, the UK and the North of France. Antwerp's exceptional position and extensive transport infrastructure will provide a wide choice of transport modes for delivery to customers, by road, inland waterway or rail. Forecasted annual sales of aggregates are 500,000 tonnes in the medium term and 1,000,000 tonnes in the longer term.

With this project, Eurovia and Van Wellen are taking a significant position in the Northern European wholesale construction materials market.

*Eurovia, a VINCI Group subsidiary, is one of the world leaders in roadworks. Operating in 16 countries through 300 roadworks entities and 800 sites producing materials for road construction, Eurovia has a workforce of 36,000 and generated net sales of*  $\in$  5.7 *billion in 2004.* 

Van Wellen, a subsidiary of CFE (45% owned by VINCI Construction), operates in the Antwerp area. Specialised in roadworks and construction, Van Wellen has a workforce of 300 and generated net sales of €70 million in 2004.

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