# press release



China, 01/03/2019

# 2018 ANNUAL RESULTS: TARGETS EXCEEDED RECORD ORGANIC GROWTH IN REVENUE AND OPERATING INCOME (EBIT) CONTINUED GROWTH IN 2019

- 2018 targets exceeded: Revenue and EBIT up 11.9% and 11.5%, respectively, at constant exchange rates<sup>1</sup>; Free cash flow in excess of €1bn
- Strong performance by WTS, with organic revenue growth up 6.7% and full-year synergies exceeding the target at \$30m
- Net income Group share up 13.4%
- 2018 dividend per share of €0.65 to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting on May 14, 2019
- 2019 outlook<sup>2</sup>:
  - Organic growth in revenue of 2%-3% and in EBIT of 4%-5%
  - o FCF growth of 7%-8%
  - Leverage ratio (Net debt/EBITDA) of c. 3 x in 2019<sup>3</sup>
  - o Continued ambition to lower leverage ratio in 2020
  - o Dividend of €0.65 to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting in May 2020

In millions of euros	31 December 2017 restated <sup>4</sup>	31 December 2018	Gross change	Organic change	FX change	Change at constant FX <sup>1</sup>
Revenue	15,783	17,331	+9.8%	+3.6%	-2.0%	+11.9%
EBITDA	2,578	2,768	+7.4%	+3.4%	-2.0%	+7.9% <sup>5</sup>
EBITDA / Revenue	16.3%	16.0%				
EBIT	1,212	1,335	+10.2%	+7.5%	-2.9%	+11.5% <sup>5</sup>
EBIT / Revenue	7.7%	7.7%				
Net income – Group share	295	335	+13.4%			
FCF	1,004	1,023	+1.9%			
Net debt	8,470	8,954	+5.7%			
Net debt / EBITDA	3.3x	3.2x	-0.1x			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At constant exchange rates, and before the impact of both the change in US tax law on regulated water activities and the depreciation charge associated with the purchase price allocation of GE Water

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Assuming water volumes sold remain in line with historical trends, volumes of waste treated rise by 1.5% in Europe and raw materials prices are stable relative to 31 December 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Excluding impact of application of IFRS 16 accounting standard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For comparability purposes, the 2017 figures mentioned in this press release and which serve as a basis to calculate annual changes are restated following application of the IFRS 15 and IFRS 9 accounting standard as of 1 January 2018 and following GE Water purchase price allocation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Before the depreciation charge associated with the purchase price allocation of GE Water -€6m on EBITDA and -€41m on EBIT

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Meeting on 26 February 2019, the Board of Directors approved SUEZ's 2018 financial statements, which will be submitted for the approval of the Annual General Meeting on 14 May 2019. The consolidated financial statements have been audited and certified by the statutory auditors.

## Commenting on these results, CEO Jean-Louis Chaussade, said:

"The Group had a strong year in 2018, exceeding the revenue, EBIT and free cash flow targets set at the beginning of the year. All divisions contributed to this excellent growth trend, with WTS and International performing particularly well. The first year of WTS's integration was altogether promising for the future and strengthens our belief that this strategic operation was the right choice for the Group. SUEZ's profitability also improved in 2018, despite headwinds from the sharp drop in the price of certain recycled raw materials and the rise in oil prices. The commercial results reported by each division demonstrate our ability to maintain profitable growth momentum for the Group."

#### **2018 RESULTS**

#### REVENUE

In 2018, Group **revenue was €17,331m, up €1,548m** versus 2017.

OPERATING PERFORMANCE

EBIT reached €1,335m at 31 December 2018, up +10.2% compared with 2017.

NET INCOME GROUP SHARE

Net income Group share ended at €335m in 2018, up 13.4%.

### FREE CASH FLOW AND BALANCE SHEET

Free cash flow was €1,023m, up 1.9% mainly due to the sharp improvement in operating cash flow to **€2,277m**, up 12.1% from 2017.

Net debt was €8,954m at 31 December 2018, for a net debt/EBITDA ratio of 3.2x, down 0.1x relative to December 2017 and in line with the Group's expectations.

## DIVIDEND

As a result of these performances and its confidence in the future, SUEZ will propose a 2018 dividend of €0.65 per share at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on 14 May 2019.

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#### SUEZ

With 90,000 people on the five continents, SUEZ is a world leader in smart and sustainable resource management. We provide water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries optimize their resource management and strengthen their environmental and economic performances, in line with regulatory standards. To meet increasing demands to overcome resource quality and scarcity challenges, SUEZ is fully engaged in the resource revolution. With the full potential of digital technologies and innovative solutions, the Group recovers 17 million tons of waste a year, produces 3.9 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also secures water resources, delivering wastewater treatment services to 58 million people and reusing 882 million m³ of wastewater. SUEZ generated total revenues of 17.3 billion euros in 2018.

#### SUEZ in Asia

SUEZ has been present for over 60 years in South East Asia and 40 years in Greater China in water and waste management. With over 9,000 employees and over 70 water and waste projects with local partners, SUEZ is helping authorities and industries develop innovative solutions to address climate change and sustainable resource management. The Group built over 440 water and wastewater treatment plants in Asia, supplying drinking water to 20 million people. It operates China's first PPP water contract in Macau and Mainland China's first water concession in Chongqing. It is also the leader of waste management in Hong Kong and delivers its expertise in the management of environmental services to 13 industrial parks in Mainland China.

Find out more about SUEZ Asia on the <u>website</u> & on social media







