



PRESS RELEASE

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Romania: the Auchan group increases its stake in MGV Distri-Hiper SA to 100%

The Auchan group announces today its acquisition of 51% of the capital of MGV Distri-Hiper, thus increasing its shareholding to 100%.

MGV Distri-Hiper SA was founded on 17 May 2005 to set up and operate stores under the Auchan banner in Romania. The partnership between the different shareholders of the company accepted from the beginning that Auchan would acquire a larger stake.

Auchan, which acquired a 29% stake when the company was set up, then acquired the 20% held by a group of Romanian private investors on 26 November 2008.

On 18 December, Auchan signed an agreement for the acquisition of the remaining 51% held by the founders of the company.

The transfer of the shares will take place in 2009 subject to the approval of the Romanian authorities regulating competition.

Christophe Dubrulle, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Auchan group, commented: *"This operation is a clear sign of the ambition of Auchan in Romania. We wish to pursue our development over the long term in this country of the European Union with a strong growth potential, and continue to contribute to the modernisation of the retail sector and the reinforcement of the purchasing power of Romanian consumers. This operation should enable us to speed up the development of our lines of business, thus prolonging the remarkable work carried out by our partners and our teams up to now"*.

Since 2006, MGV Distri-Hiper has opened 6 hypermarkets under the Auchan banner, including 2 in recent weeks, in Suceava on 15 November and in Bucharest Militari on 11 December, as well as a supermarket. And the company plans to open 2 new hypermarkets in 2009.

Philippe Le Grignou has been appointed Chairman of MGV Distri-Hiper, which had 3,500 employees on 31 December 2008.

Press contact:

François Cathalifaud, press relations manager

Tel: +33 (0)1 58 65 08 10 / +33 (0)6 21 09 84 35; E-mail: fcathalifaud@auchan.fr