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April 19, 2001

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## Media Release

*Released for immediate publication*

### **Sika records strong growth**

**The Sika Group generated in the year 2000 sales of CHF 1998 m, representing a rise of 18.3%, while Group net profit increased 12.9% from CHF 92.7 m to reach CHF 104.6 m. Cash flow rose 25.7% from CHF 187.2 m to reach CHF 235.4 m.**

**A proposal will be made to the Annual General Meeting to increase the dividend from 21% to 23%.**

**Sales grew in line with forecasts during the first three months of the current year.**

Sales at Sika rose by a strong 18.3% in the 2000 business year (previous year 7.5%), meaning net sales increased from CHF 1689 m to reach CHF 1998 m. Both divisions – Construction and Industry – contributed to this rise in sales with double-digit growth rates, thereby reinforcing their competitive positions in the global market.

Group net profit reached CHF 104.6 m (previous year CHF 92.7 m), for the first time passing the CHF 100 m threshold. There was a sharp 15.8% rise in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), while cash flow came in an impressive 25.7% higher.

The net turnovers during the first three months of 2001 were in line with expectations, and lie in local currencies 17.4% above those seen in the previous year (11.8% of which was attributable to acquisitions). The 2001 business year is likely to be less dynamic, although performance will remain within the medium-term targets. Thanks to our world-wide market presence, comprehensive product range and the support of strong subsidiaries, we are expecting to see sustained internal growth of the long-lasting business activities, notwithstanding the economic slowdown, due above all to innovative products.

The rise in the Holding's net profit from CHF 34.1 m to CHF 39.8 m enables the Board of Directors to propose to the Annual General Meeting an increase in dividends from 21 to 23 %.

<b>Group accounts, key figures (in CHF million)</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Net sales	1409	1689	1998
Group net profit	59	93	105
Cash flow	132	187	235
Employees	6913	7044	7873
Value added per employee (in CHF 1000)	77.0	91.1	98.4

The complete business report can be accessed under [www.sika.com](http://www.sika.com) (section: Investor Relations), or can be ordered from this website.



<http://www.sika.com>