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## Media Release

*Free for immediate publication*

### **Sika in difficult market environment**

#### **Performance of the business during the first three quarters 2001**

During the first 9 months of 2001 the Sika Group achieved net sales of CHF 1 603 m (previous year CHF 1 487 m), CHF 106 m of this sum is apportioned to acquisition. After currency adjustments this corresponds to an increase of + 7.8 %.

The Construction and Industry Divisions were able to record a remarkable growth rate in local currencies of + 12.9 % and + 12.1 % respectively. Our sales and production quantities increased and point to a sustained market share against very strong competition.

In the third quarter Sika achieved a growth in net sales of + 6.3 % in local currencies, which corresponds to an increase of + 0.3 % in Swiss francs.

#### **Outlook to the end of 2001**

At group level we are estimating net sales of CHF 2 100 m (previous year CHF 1 998 m). The weak global economic situation, the extremely strong Swiss franc and the sobering developments on the financial markets – as stated earlier – mean that we cannot achieve our results of last year, nor our objectives.

By the end of the year we are estimating an operating profit (EBIT) that will be lower by some 15 – 20 %, and a cash flow reaching around 75 % of previous year's level.

The group net profit will be further affected by the developments on the financial markets, which worsened further in the third quarter. In addition, the third quarter is affected by a fraud in Far East.

The cost management measures which were established in the first half year are being rigorously maintained. Despite this, the net profit will be significantly lower than last year.

