

## **Press Release of SIDMA S.A.**

**Athens, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

### **Announcement pursuant to paragraph 4.1.4.4 of ASE Rulebook**

In the context of publication of the financial statements for the period 01.01.2014 - 31.12.2014 of SIDMA S.A. (hereinafter the “Company”), in pursuance of paragraph 4.1.4.4. of ASE Rulebook, the Company informs investors that all its shares were transferred to the category “Supervision” on 10.04.12 by virtue of the decision of ASE BoD dated 05.04.12, in pursuance of Article 3.1.2.5 of ASE Rulebook, because the book losses of the fiscal year ended on 31.12.2011 stood at a level higher than 30% of the Company's equity.

The significant improvement in the operating profitability of SIDMA Group in Greece and also in the Balkan countries, in which the Group operates, despite the economic circumstances which kept the consumption of steel products at low levels for one more year, rewards its efforts to reduce its cost base while also focusing on profitability.

In the first half of the year, SIDMA Group registered upward sales figures and a considerable improvement in both operating and pre-tax results, mainly owing to the increased contribution of the parent company and the subsidiary in Bulgaria. In addition, the initiatives to further curtail the operating cost that were first taken in the middle of the previous year have already yielded results. These are considered satisfactory if we take into account that the market was idle in the first half of the year, pending the progress of the Government's negotiations with the creditors.

In this context, SIDMA registered increased operations at the level of both company and Group. In addition, the company's management has made in recent years in a series of actions involving firstly, the drastic reduction of the Group's operating costs and also to strengthen the structure of operational activities. The cost savings achieved since the crisis began more than 40%. Already this year in the first half, reducing expenses reached € 1 million compared with the prior year as a result of measures taken by the Administration in the second half of 2014. These measures concerned the pay cut costs and expenses, restructuring structures and reduce support costs without affecting the smooth operation of the Group. Finally, the company's management to make a series of actions to enhance liquidity and financial position of the Group which inter alia include the disposal of assets, further reducing the credit offered to customers, while maintaining / improving the percentage gross profit.