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Press Release

For immediate publication

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FINES SEVERAL COMPANIES FOR ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES IN THE CHOLINE CHLORIDE SECTOR FOR ANIMAL FEED

Brussels, December 9, 2004 – UCB has just been informed today on the decision of the European Commission to fine the company € 10.38 million for its participation in anti-competitive practices in the choline chloride market, also called vitamin B4, an additive used in animal feed.

These charges are old and involve chemical activities that are no longer part of the Group.

UCB will analyze the decision of going in appeal. Due to UCB existing provisions, this fine should have no impact on UCB's results.

About the UCB Group

UCB (www.ucb-group.com) is a global pharmaceutical and specialty chemical leader with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Through its Pharma division, the company is focused on innovative solutions for human healthcare. UCB Pharma is a global biopharmaceutical player, specialising in the fields of central nervous system disorders, allergy and respiratory disease, immune and inflammatory disorders and oncology. UCB Pharma's key products are Keppra® (antiepileptic), Xyzal® and Zyrtec® (antiallergics), Nootropil® (cerebral function regulator), and Tussionex® (antitussive). UCB Pharma employs over 8,000 people operating in over 100 countries and in 2003 achieved sales of €1.5 billion. UCB is listed on Euronext Brussels and achieved sales of €3 billion and a net profit of €340 million in 2003.

On October 1st, 2004, UCB announced the sale of its Surface Specialties business to enable the Company to focus on its biopharmaceutical activities.

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