

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 12th March 2009 - Financière Hélios announces the opening, following its request, of a safeguard procedure (*Procédure de Sauvegarde*) by the Commerce Court of Paris regarding the company. Financière Hélios, a company controlled by funds managed by Apax Partners SA and Altamir Amboise, is the main shareholder (43.1%) of Séchilienne Sidec.

The safeguard procedure has no consequences on Séchilienne Sidec's financial situation or operations.

This preventive measure is opened for a period of six months. In the current environment, which is characterised by a high level of instability, the safeguard procedure will create a stable framework that will allow constructive discussions between Financière Hélios and its debtors to continue with the aim of adapting Financière Hélios debt structure to the current market conditions and the high stock market volatility. The safeguard procedure will end at completion of these discussions.

The request for a safeguard procedure is aligned with Financière Hélios' objective of securing access to stable financing in a context where Séchilienne Sidec, Financière Hélios' sole asset, is characterised by the robustness of its business model and the quality of its development perspectives.