

Sanofi-Aventis becomes majority shareholder of Zentiva

Prague, London, March 12, 2009 – Today, Sanofi-Aventis Europe announced that it has become an approximately 96.8% shareholder of Zentiva N.V. (the “Company” or “Zentiva”), controlling over 37.8 million Zentiva shares. This is following (i) successful settlement of its recommended voluntary CZK 1,150 in cash per share offer for Zentiva, and (ii) settlement of other purchases of Zentiva shares recently made by Sanofi-Aventis Europe.

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IMPORTANT NOTICES*Forward-looking Statements*

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Other Important Notices

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Zentiva's ordinary shares and global depository shares have not been and will not be registered under the US Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold in the US except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

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NOTE FOR EDITORS

Zentiva N.V. is an international pharmaceutical company focused on developing, manufacturing and marketing modern generic pharmaceutical products. The Company has leading positions in the pharmaceutical markets in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Turkey and is growing rapidly in Poland, Russia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Ukraine and the Baltic States. Zentiva's strategy is to further this growth by increasing patient access to modern medicines through primary care providers within the EU and Eastern Europe. This growth will be based on further organic development of Zentiva's existing business and through selective acquisitions, whilst maintaining profitable growth.

The Company addresses a wide range of therapeutic areas but has a particular focus on cardiovascular disorders, inflammatory conditions, pain, infections and diseases of the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal and urology fields.

The Zentiva Group employs almost 6,000 people and has production sites in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Turkey.

Zentiva is listed on the Prague and London Stock Exchanges.