



ASEC CEMENT COMPANY

Q1 – 2008

Message to Shareholders



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Dear Shareholders,

This is the first time I have the pleasure to address you as Managing Director of ASEC Cement. I joined the company only a while ago but I can assure you that I found a very stimulating environment with a lot of enthusiasm and desire to excel. I will do my best in order to deliver what we promised you: the creation of a new company regional leader in the cement business. That is our challenge and that is my personal commitment. The first phase in the development of our company has been completed; licenses and permits have been obtained for our Greenfield projects in Algeria, Syria, Sudan, Egypt and Kurdistan. Zahana plant is from the first of January under our full management control and the rehabilitation work has begun. We have now to move in the execution phase, a very delicate one for us, given the importance of Greenfields in our business model. To reduce execution risks we are implementing a monitoring program for all our projects which will give us on a weekly basis a precise valuation of our progress vis a vis the expected timeline.

In the next few weeks of the second quarter, we will finalize the EPC contracts for our new plants in Algeria and Syria: we expect to sign the EPC contract for Egypt around the third quarter of the year. We are progressing with the geological investigations in Ethiopia and two interesting limestone reserves are being investigated; both seem to be of high interest and we hope that all the technical analysis will be completed by the summer. As soon as we will have enough comfort on their characteristics we will proceed with the work to secure the necessary licenses. At the same time we are considering other opportunities which might enrich our original business model; we are still at the negotiation phase but we hope to be able to finalize some of these by quarter three. Obviously, we will inform you immediately of any development. By the end of the year we will revise our plan in order to take into account of the possible new developments and of the other changes which are taking place in the world scenario.

Giorgio Bodo

Chief Executive Officer