

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **FOR SMURFIT-STONE U.S. RETIREES**

1. Why did Smurfit-Stone file for Chapter 11 reorganization?

The company has a significant amount of debt, which we are unable to address in the current credit environment. This process will allow us to reorganize our capital structure and emerge a stronger, more financially healthy competitor well-positioned to invest in and grow the business over the long term. After careful consideration, we determined that this was the path that would best protect and strengthen Smurfit-Stone's long-term value.

2. What does it mean to voluntarily file for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code?

The Chapter 11 is the U.S. legal process that enables companies to reorganize their capital structures while allowing them to continue operating as usual and preserving jobs. This process is well-established and commonly used by companies in the U.S.

3. Will the company continue to operate during this process?

Absolutely, and following the Chapter 11 process, we are confident that we will emerge a stronger, more financially healthy company.

4. How will the reorganization process help Smurfit-Stone?

The filing will allow us to strengthen our capital structure, so that we are in a stronger position to invest in and grow our business over the long term. It also will enable us to address other financial challenges resulting from the current global economic environment.

5. How long is Smurfit-Stone's financial reorganization likely to take?

There is no way to predict today how long the process will ultimately take, though cases like this frequently range from one to two years. We will have a better idea as the process unfolds and will keep you posted.

6. What will happen to the Smurfit-Stone stock that I own?

It is too early to say what will happen to Smurfit-Stone stock, however in most cases when a company emerges from Chapter 11, its existing equity shares are either substantially diluted in value or cancelled.

7. Will I continue to receive my monthly pension check from Bank of New York Mellon?

As a member of either the Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation Pension Plan for Salaried Employees or the Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation Pension Plan for Hourly Employees, you will continue to receive your monthly pension check as usual at this time. The Bank of New York Mellon will continue to mail your check directly to your home or deposit the sum directly into your bank account.

8. Is it possible that Smurfit-Stone's qualified defined benefit pension plan could be changed or terminated as a result of the Chapter 11 filing?

The status of the qualified defined benefit pension plan administered by Smurfit-Stone has not changed. In the U.S., qualified defined benefit pension plans are not automatically terminated when an employer files for protection under Chapter 11. In fact, qualified defined benefit pension plans cannot be terminated unless they meet the standards for termination set out by U.S. federal law, and a decision to seek to terminate a qualified defined benefit pension plan would have to comply with those standards.

While U.S. federal law protects qualified defined benefit pension plans from retroactive changes to plan benefits, it is possible that there could be changes to the qualified defined benefit pension plan in the future. Any such changes would be announced as appropriate. In the U.S., the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation also provides protection for qualified defined benefit pension programs.

9. What happens if a qualified defined benefit pension plan is terminated?

In the U.S., if a qualified defined benefit pension plan is terminated, the liabilities of the plan are determined and the assets of the plan are used to satisfy those liabilities. If it is determined that the plan has sufficient

assets, then all plan benefits are paid in accordance with the plan terms and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). In the event that there are insufficient assets to pay all approved benefits, then the plan will be administered by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), which is an independent agency chartered under federal law.

The rules governing distribution of plan assets are complex. Generally speaking, however, all reasonable administrative expenses are paid by the plan first. Then the plan's remaining assets would be distributed in accordance with guidelines of ERISA.

For more information about the PBGC insurance protections and its limitations, go to www.pbgc.gov.

10. Are the assets in Smurfit-Stone's 401(k) plans for retirees protected from creditors' claims in the bankruptcy proceedings?

Yes. U.S. federal law protects the funds in 401(k) savings plans from the claims of a company's creditors. All individual 401(k) accounts are set up in the individual retiree's name. This means that Smurfit-Stone cannot use these assets to meet its other obligations or to pay its debts.

11. What happens to the accounts of retirees who are participants in the 401(k) plan?

The assets in our 401(k) plans are held in a trust by T. Rowe Price, which is separate from the company. These assets are protected under U.S. federal law against the claims of Smurfit-Stone's creditors, which means that the company can't use any of these assets to meet other obligations or to pay its debts. While the company could make changes to such a plan during the reorganization proceedings, those changes would only affect future company contributions to the plan, not past contributions. Irrespective of the filings, all investments contained in an individual's 401(k) account are subject to some level of market risk.

12. Will there be any impact on retiree medical benefits as a result of the filings?

There will be no changes to the retiree medical benefits as a result of the filing.

13. Where should retirees go for information about the reorganization?

Information about the reorganization is posted on the external web site, www.smurfitstone.com, and these will be updated regularly. We will also communicate with you directly when there are significant developments to report. If you have any further questions, please speak with your supervisor or call our Call Center toll-free at 877-264-9638.