**Brussels, 11 February 2022**

Press release

**HANNECARD ROLLS OUT GROWTH PLANS THANKS TO PARTICIPATION OF BNP PARIBAS FORTIS PRIVATE EQUITY**

***BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity takes stake in the Hannecard Group. Thanks to this participation, Hannecard can fully focus on sustainable and responsible growth, both locally and internationally. With over 120 years of experience, the company from Ronse is one of the leading suppliers in Europe of industrial roller and roller coverings in rubber, polyurethane, composite and carbide for numerous sectors. Among other things, it has developed a revolutionary coating system for beverage cans.***

Today, Hannecard is internationally active and present on all five continents. Thanks to the minority stake held by BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity, the company is ready for a new chapter and optimally prepared for its next growth phase.

“*Our focus is on international growth and improving our local service*”, says **Dirk Vidts, CEO of Hannecard Group**. "*Thanks to local partnerships, our technology is also available outside the European borders and we can standardise roller coverings. Flexibility and quality are our top priorities, but sustainability also plays an essential role. In order to achieve these ambitions, we were looking for a reliable financial partner who believes in our growth strategy and is prepared to help build our story in the long term. BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity was able to tick all these boxes*."

**Potential global player**

"*We have been Hannecard’s preferred banker for many years and have an excellent relationship*", says **Raf Moons, Head of BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity**. "*But it is their strongly supported growth plan that has convinced us to take a stake. Hannecard is a solid Flemish SME with the potential to become a global player. With innovative ideas, technological improvements and new product developments, they are steadily conquering a global niche market. This is a story we like to be part of*."

**Efficiency and sustainability**

In addition to the production of industrial roller and roller coverings, Hannecard is also investing heavily in Research & Development. The company spends a substantial part of its turnover on R&D each year to develop new products and IT applications in order to cut costs, but also to increase sustainability. In addition to developing new products and improving existing solutions, the R&D team attaches great importance to making production processes more efficient and sustainable.

For example no CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic) type raw materials have been used. And thanks to a track & trace system, they can better monitor all installations and predict their maintenance, which prevents a lot of wear and tear, breakages and therefore waste.

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**Press Contact BNP Paribas Fortis:**

**Mr Valéry Halloy** | Press Officer
+32 (0)475 78 80 97
valery.halloy@bnpparibasfortis.com

**Press Contact Hannecard:**

**Mr Thierry Pot**

**+32 55 23 76 84**

**thierry.pot@hannecard.com**

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*Since its creation, the* ***Hannecard Group*** *has always specialised in rubber, polyurethane, composite and carbide roller and roller coverings for industrial applications. In addition, Hannecard offers a wide range of other services, ranging from roller maintenance to repair and optimisation. They supply to the paper, metal, plastic, packaging, printing, textile, food and wood industries, among others. Today, Hannecard Group is the umbrella name for a leading international corporate group with 12 own production units and 9 joint ventures worldwide. The company is based in Ronse, Belgium, and employs around 600 people in 16 countries.*

***BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity****, the venture capital arm of BNP Paribas Fortis, has been active in the private equity market in Belgium for over 40 years. BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity currently acquires minority stakes and provides mezzanine financing to high-performing medium-sized companies. BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity also invests in specialised venture capital and private equity funds that are present on the Belgian market and acts as investment adviser to the Belgian Growth Fund (BGF). Direct holdings of BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity include Studio 100, Konings, Xenics, reMYND, Quality Assistance and PointChaud.*

***BNP Paribas*** *(*[***www.bnpparibas.com***](http://www.bnpparibas.com)*) is a leading bank in Europe with an international reach. It operates in 68 countries and has more than 193,000 employees, including nearly 148,000 in Europe. The Group has key positions in its three main activities: Domestic Markets and International Financial Services (whose retail-banking networks and financial services are covered by Retail Banking & Services) and Corporate & Institutional Banking, which serves two client franchises: corporate clients and institutional investors. The Group helps all its clients (individuals, community associations, entrepreneurs, SMEs, corporates and institutional clients) to realise their projects through solutions spanning financing, investment, savings and protection insurance. In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the European leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail-banking model in Mediterranean countries, in Turkey, in Eastern Europe and a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Institutional Banking and International Financial Services activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas as well as a solid and fast-growing business in Asia-Pacific.*

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***BNP Paribas Fortis*** *(*[*www.bnpparibasfortis.com*](http://www.bnpparibasfortis.com)*) commercialise sur le marché belge un éventail complet de services financiers auprès des particuliers, indépendants, titulaires de professions libérales, entreprises et organisations publiques. Dans le secteur des assurances, BNP Paribas Fortis opère en étroite collaboration, en tant qu’agent d’assurance lié, avec AG Insurance, leader du marché belge. Au niveau international, la banque propose des solutions sur mesure aux particuliers fortunés, aux grandes entreprises et aux institutions publiques et financières, en s'appuyant sur la compétence et le réseau international de BNP Paribas.*

***BNP Paribas*** *(*[*www.bnpparibas.com*](http://www.bnpparibas.com)*) est une banque de premier plan en Europe avec un rayonnement international. Elle est présente dans 68 pays, avec plus de 193 000 collaborateurs, dont plus de 148 000 en Europe. Le Groupe détient des positions clés dans ses trois grands domaines d'activité : Domestic Markets et International Financial Services, dont les réseaux de banques de détail et les services financiers sont regroupés dans Retail Banking & Services, et Corporate & Institutional Banking, centré sur les clientèles Entreprises et Institutionnels. Le Groupe accompagne l’ensemble de ses clients (particuliers, associations, entrepreneurs, PME, grandes entreprises et institutionnels) pour les aider à réaliser leurs projets en leur proposant des services de financement, d’investissement, d’épargne et d’assurance protection. En Europe, le Groupe a quatre marchés domestiques (la Belgique, la France, l'Italie et le Luxembourg) et BNP Paribas Personal Finance est numéro un du crédit aux particuliers en Europe. BNP Paribas développe également son modèle intégré de banque de détail dans les pays du bassin méditerranéen, en Turquie, en Europe de l’Est et a un réseau important dans l'Ouest des Etats-Unis. Dans ses activités Corporate & Institutional Banking et International Financial Services, BNP Paribas bénéficie d'un leadership en Europe, d'une forte présence dans les Amérique du Nord et du Sud, ainsi que d'un dispositif solide et en forte croissance en Asie-Pacifique.*