

## LOTUS BAKERIES ANNOUNCES ITS INTENTION TO INTEGRATE THE PRODUCTION VOLUMES OF THE MEISE PRODUCTION FACILITY IN THE COURCELLES WAFFLE FACILITY

On Wednesday, 3 June 2015, our production facility at Meise was totally destroyed by fire. In Meise, Liège waffles, vanilla waffles and soft (egg) waffles were produced on four production lines.

By transferring production temporarily to our own waffle factory in Courcelles and with help from fellow waffle bakers, we were quickly able to develop a short term solution and guarantee supply to our customers.

Next to this we have developed several alternatives which will allow us to ensure the complete waffle production in-house as soon as possible.

The various options are:

- Rebuilding of the factory at the existing site in Meise.
- Building a new factory on an industrial estate nearby Meise.
- Transferring all production to the Courcelles plant by expanding the production lines in the existing building.

For each option a detailed plan has been drawn up, reflecting all possible aspects such as investments, production costs, organizational and employment impact, market expectations and growth opportunities.

This study shows the third option, namely the integration of the volumes in the plant Courcelles, to be the most appropriate route.

Based on this finding we have today, 1 September, made public our intention not to rebuild the Meise production facility, nor to build a new facility nearby Meise, but to expand the plant in Courcelles. This will enable us to accommodate all waffle and galettes production in one large and efficient production facility.

This intention means that we will have to proceed with the collective dismissal of 66 workers and 5 employees.

Given the decision not to rebuild the Meise site, management is evidently prepared to negotiate on social support measures. We are thinking here in first instance about re-employment within the Lotus Bakeries Group. There are currently 36 vacancies in Lembeke, seven vacancies in Oostakker and, if capacity is increased in Courcelles, this will create 38 jobs there. For this, management would be willing to agree on transitional measures.

Meanwhile the information and consultation procedure has started with employee representatives.



# Press release

01/09/2015-10.30 a.m.

## Lotus Bakeries in a nutshell

*Lotus Bakeries is active worldwide in biscuits, cakes and snacks with the Lotus, Lotus Biscoff, Dinosaur Lotus, Lotus Suzy, Peijnenburg, Fast Freddy, Annas, Nākd and Trek brands. Lotus Bakeries, with headquarters in Belgium, is a dynamic, internationally oriented company with production facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Sweden, and 15 own sales organizations in Europe, the United States and Asia. Lotus Bakeries also works with commercial partners in forty countries worldwide. Lotus Bakeries has 1,321 employees. By maintaining a healthy balance between tradition and innovation, the Lotus brand indulges consumers with a unique range of high-quality, tasty products. With Peijnenburg and Snelle Jelle, the company is a market leader in gingerbread in the Netherlands. Under the Nākd and Trek brands, Lotus Bakeries offers tasty snacks, manufactured from all-natural, unprocessed ingredients, with no added sugar. In 2014 the Group achieved a turnover of EUR 347.9 million. The shares of Lotus Bakeries are listed on Euronext Brussels.*

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Further information on Lotus Bakeries can be found on [www.lotusbakeries.com](http://www.lotusbakeries.com)

