

**KKO International raises 3.8 M € and achieves a major objective in its strategy with the launch of a "TREE-TO-BAR" chocolate production unit in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and the continued valorization of its production.**

**Paris & Brussels, 2 october 2019 – KKO INTERNATIONAL (FR0013374667 – ALKKO – PEA-PME) :** KKO INTERNATIONAL has raised 3.8 million euros from new and historical shareholders. This capital increase is a major step in its strategic plan, which allows it to complete its "TREE-TO-BAR" chocolate production unit, located in the port of Abidjan and to finance its agricultural activities until financial equilibrium, expected in 2020.

The capital increase thus achieved enables KKO International to replace the OCABSA program set up by ABO and European High Growth Opportunity Securitization Fund. Considered contrary to the interests of the group and its shareholders, the Board of Directors of KKO International have decided to cancel the contract.

As the World Bank has recently pointed out, nearly 80% of the sector's earnings are concentrated in processing phase (chocolate mass) and the distribution of fine products to end consumers. By climbing the value chain, KKO International brings to the fore, the excellence of its cocoa beans that are fully traceable "TREE-TO-BAR", thus in compliance with the ethical and environmental requirements that constitutes its DNA.

Since its beginning, KKO International has decided to break with existing agricultural and industrial practices that are currently being denounced by the media, consumers and international financial institutions who are calling for a drastic change in the behavior of multinationals within the sector.

KKO International has implemented innovative agricultural techniques that respect the environment (sustainable irrigation, soil replenishment using organic fertilizers, reforestation and development of biological diversity, etc.) and a responsible social policy (access to drinking water, solar energy, free medical care, schooling for children, vocational training for adults, social security measures, respect for the right to organize labour unions and a complete ban on child labor and undeclared employment, etc.).

These ethical and strategic choices are now bearing fruit and are reflected in the increased agricultural productivity, complete traceability of the beans from the tree to the finished product, the continued growth in the valuation of biological assets, steady decline in absenteeism,...

The achievement of these strategic steps results in a strong added value for the group and its shareholders. KKO International is thus able to become the world leader in the sustainable and responsible production of TREE-TO-BAR, fully traceable cocoa beans, which is the guarantee for a chocolate of excellence.

## About KKO INTERNATIONAL

KKO INTERNATIONAL operates one of the largest cocoa plantations in the world, based in Ivory Coast. The Group combines innovative practices of sustainable agriculture and an environmentally and socially responsible way of farming, which make it a unique business model in the sector, capable of ensuring the quality and traceability of the bean, as well as its transformation.

[www.kko-international.com](http://www.kko-international.com)

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