**Brussels, 10 February 2022**

Press release

**WITH BNP PARIBAS FORTIS AS SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, UMICORE SIGNS €500 MILLION SUSTAINABLE Linked LOAN**

***Umicore has decided to link the cost of its €500 million Revolving Credit Facility to the achievement of sustainable goals. This Sustainability Linked Loan (SLL), whose interest margin is tied to the borrower’s compliance with environmental and governance criteria, was granted by a consortium of 13 banks and coordinated on the sustainable side by BNP Paribas Fortis.***

Sustainability Linked Loans are currently making a major breakthrough in the sustainable finance sector. Their interest margins are linked to the environmental, social and/or governance performance of borrowers, which must show maturity and ambition in their sustainability strategy.

Umicore, a global player in materials technology, has decided to take out such a loan by tying the cost of this €500 million Revolving Credit Facility. This facility was underwritten by a pool of 13 international banks and has a base term of five years. It measures Umicore’s progress towards its carbon neutrality and gender diversity objectives.

“*This inaugural sustainability loan is in line with our commitment to our ambitious ‘Let’s go for Zero’ ESG* *strategy*”, says **Filip Platteeuw, CFO of Umicore.** *It further broadens Umicore’s funding capacity, supported by a large group of international relationship banks."*

Through Umicore's "Let’s go for Zero" strategy, launched in June 2021, the Group commits to achieving carbon neutrality by 2035, with interim targets to reduce its Scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2025 and 50% by 2030, and to achieving gender parity as soon as possible, with 35% women in management by 2030.

"*For* *companies now seeking to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the finance market has rarely been so interesting",* emphasizes Didier Beauvois, Head of Corporate Banking & member of the Executive Committee of BNP Paribas Fortis. “*I am proud that the Umicore has chosen BNP Paribas Fortis to set up its first Sustainability Linked Loan to support its ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality and gender diversity. This Sustainability Linked Loan is a clear example of how we and the syndicated banks we represent, intend to serve our clients for a more sustainable* *future."*

BNP Paribas Fortis, KBC Bank and SMBC acted as Coordinating Bookrunners and Mandated Lead Arrangers for the transaction, while BNP Paribas Fortis also acted as Sustainability Coordinator.

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**Press Contacts BNP Paribas Fortis:**

**Media Relations**

**Mr Hans Mariën** | Press Officer
+32 (0)475 74 72 86

hans.marien@bnpparibasfortis.com

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

**Press Contacts Umicore:**

**Investor Relations**

**Ms Eva Behaeghe**

 **+32 2 227 70 68** **eva.behaeghe@umicore.com**

**Ms Evelien Goovaerts**

**+32 2 227 78 38** **evelien.goovaerts@umicore.com**

**Media Relations**

**Ms Marjolein Scheers**

**+32 2 227 71 47** **marjolein.scheers@umicore.com**

**Ms Caroline Jacobs**

**+32 2 227 71 29** **caroline.jacobs@umicore.com**

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***Umicore*** *is a global materials technology and recycling group. It focuses on application areas where its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy makes a real difference. Its activities are organized in three business groups: Catalysis, Energy & Surface Technologies and Recycling. Each business group is divided into market-focused business units offering materials and solutions that are at the cutting edge of new technological developments and essential to everyday life. Umicore generates the majority of its revenues and dedicates most of its R&D efforts to clean mobility materials and recycling. Umicore’s overriding goal of sustainable value creation is based on an ambition to develop, produce and recycle materials in a way that fulfils its mission: materials for a better life. Umicore’s industrial and commercial operations as well as R&D activities are located across the world to best serve its global customer base. The Group generated revenues (excluding metal) of € 2.1 billion (turnover of € 12.7 billion) in the first half of 2021 and currently employs just below 11,000 people.*

***BNP Paribas Fortis*** *(*[*www.bnpparibasfortis.com*](http://www.bnpparibasfortis.com)*) offers the Belgian market a comprehensive range of financial services for private individuals, the self-employed, professionals, companies and public organisations. In the insurance sector, BNP Paribas Fortis works closely, as a tied agent, with Belgian market leader AG Insurance. At international level, the Bank also provides high-net-worth individuals, large corporations and public and financial institutions with customised solutions, for which it is able to draw on the know-how and international network of the BNP Paribas Group.*

***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.*

***Axepta BNP Paribas (***[***www.axepta.be***](http://www.axepta.be)***) XXXXXXXX***

***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.*