

Edgar Filing: SODEXHO ALLIANCE SA - Form 6-K

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit	Description
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99.1	Press Release
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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SODEXHO ALLIANCE SA

By: /s/ Sian Herbert-Jones

Name: Sian Herbert-Jones
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 19, 2004

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These include, but are not limited to, statements regarding anticipated future events and financial performance with respect to our operations. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They often include words like "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimated" , "project " , "plan" "pro forma," and "intend" or future or conditional verbs such as "will," "would," or "may." Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results include, but are not limited to, those set forth in our Registration Statement on Form 20-F, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the competitive environment in which we operate, changes in general economic conditions and changes in the French, American and/or global financial and/or capital markets. Forward-looking statements represent management 's views as of the date they are made, and we assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements for actual events occurring after that date. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements.

SODEXHO ALLIANCE REQUESTS THE AMF TO OPEN AN ENQUIRY

Paris, January 12, 2004 - Following various rumours at the opening of the stock market and the spread of incorrect information originating from a summary report made by Smith Barney, Sodexho Alliance insists on clarifying certain information which could lead to the belief that the group has not been transparent in its communication, particularly as regards its receivables securitization in the United Kingdom.

Sodexho Alliance notes that the 100 million euros of cash flow generated, in Fiscal 2002-2003, by working capital from operations does not in anyway include the impact of receivables securitization in the United Kingdom.

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This securitization program has been in place since 1999 as a financing source and since this date is disclosed in the accounts of our subsidiary, according to local accounting principles. In addition and following the new recommendations dated January 2003 of the AMF, this information is published in the Group's Annual Report filed on 28 November 2003 with the AMF; it is available on our website.

Considering that this erroneous information prejudices the company and its shareholders, Sodexo Alliance reserves its right to seek appropriate redress.

Following a downwards movement in its share price of nearly 8% over a few hours and volumes exchanged on 12 January of more than 2.7 million shares, Sodexo Alliance questions the speculative nature of these movements and requests the AMF to open an enquiry.

About Sodexo Alliance

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Pierre Bellon, Sodexo Alliance is the world's leading provider of food and management services. With more than 308,000 employees on 23,900 sites in 76 countries, Sodexo Alliance reported consolidated sales of 11.7 billion euros for the fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2003. The Sodexo Alliance share has been listed since 1983 on the Euronext Paris Bourse, where its market value totals 3.9 billion euros. The Sodexo Alliance share has been listed since April 3, 2002, on the New York Stock Exchange.

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