

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**COMMISSIONERS:**        **Timothy J. Muris, Chairman**  
                                  **Sheila F. Anthony**  
                                  **Mozelle W. Thompson**  
                                  **Orson Swindle**  
                                  **Thomas B. Leary**

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In the matter of	)	
	)	
<b>SOLVAY S.A.,</b>	)	File No. 021-0067
a foreign corporation.	)	
	)	
_____	)	

**AGREEMENT CONTAINING CONSENT ORDERS**

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) having initiated an investigation of the proposed acquisition by Solvay S.A. (“Solvay”) of certain voting securities of Ausimont S.p.A. (“Ausimont”), and it now appearing that Solvay, hereinafter sometimes referred to as “Proposed Respondent,” is willing to enter into this Agreement Containing Consent Orders (“Consent Agreement”) to divest certain assets and providing for other relief.

**IT IS HEREBY AGREED** by and between Proposed Respondent, by its duly authorized officers and attorney, and counsel for the Commission that:

1. Proposed Respondent Solvay S.A. is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of Belgium, with its office and principal place of business located at Rue du Prince Albert, 33, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Proposed Respondent’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Solvay America, Inc., is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of Delaware, with its principal office and place of business at 3333 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77098.
2. Proposed Respondent admits all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the draft of Complaint here attached.
3. Proposed Respondent waives:

- a. any further procedural steps;
  - b. the requirement that the Commission's Order to Hold Separate and Maintain Assets (the "Hold Separate") and Decision and Order, here attached and made a part hereof, contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law;
  - c. all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Hold Separate and Decision and Order entered pursuant to this Consent Agreement; and,
  - d. any claim under the Equal Access to Justice Act.
4. Proposed Respondent shall submit an initial compliance report within thirty (30) days from the date on which it signs this Consent Agreement setting forth in detail the manner in which Proposed Respondent has complied and will comply with the Hold Separate and the Decision and Order. Such report will not become part of the public record unless and until this Consent Agreement and the accompanying Decision and Order and Hold Separate are accepted by the Commission for public comment.
  5. The Commission may issue its Complaint and the Hold Separate at any time after it accepts this Consent Agreement.
    - a. Within ten (10) days after it signs this Consent Agreement, Proposed Respondent shall enter into the Hold Separate Trustee Agreement (which shall include a trust agreement between Proposed Respondent and the Divestiture Trustee) as provided in Paragraph II of the Hold Separate.
    - b. Within ten (10) days after execution of the Hold Separate Trustee Agreement, Proposed Respondent shall enter into a management agreement with the Solvay Fluoropolymers Manager as provided in Paragraph II of the Hold Separate.
  6. This Consent Agreement shall not become part of the public record of the proceeding unless and until it is accepted by the Commission. If this Consent Agreement is accepted by the Commission, it, together with the Complaint contemplated thereby, will be placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days and information in respect thereto publicly released. The Commission thereafter may either withdraw its acceptance of this Consent Agreement and so notify Proposed Respondent, in which event it will take such action as it may consider appropriate, or amend its complaint if circumstances so require and issue its Decision and Order, in disposition of the proceeding.
  7. This Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Proposed Respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in the draft Complaint here attached, or that the facts as alleged in the draft Complaint, other

than jurisdictional facts, are true.

8. This Consent Agreement contemplates that, if it is accepted by the Commission, the Commission may (1) issue its Complaint corresponding in form and substance with the draft Complaint here attached, (2) issue and serve its Hold Separate, and (3) make information public with respect thereto. If such acceptance is not subsequently withdrawn by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34, the Commission may, without further notice to Proposed Respondent, issue the attached Decision and Order containing an order to divest in disposition of the proceeding. When final, the Decision and Order and Hold Separate shall have the same force and effect, and may be altered, modified or set aside in the same manner and within the same time provided by statute for other orders. The Decision and Order and Hold Separate shall become final upon service. Delivery of the Complaint, Decision and Order, and Hold Separate to Proposed Respondent's United States counsel named in this Consent Agreement by any means specified in Commission Rule 4.4(a), 16 C.F.R. § 4.4.(a), shall constitute service. Proposed Respondent waives any right it may have to any other manner of service. The Complaint may be used in construing the terms of the Decision and Order and Hold Separate. No agreement, understanding, representation, or interpretation not contained in the Decision and Order, Hold Separate, or the Consent Agreement may be used to vary or contradict the terms of the Decision and Order or the Hold Separate.
9. By signing this Consent Agreement, Proposed Respondent represents and warrants that it can divest the Solvay Fluoropolymers Business, Solvay VF<sub>2</sub> Joint Venture Business and the Ausimont - New Jersey Fluoropolymers Business and accomplish the full relief contemplated by the attached Decision and Order and the Hold Separate, within the time periods specified in the Decision and Order and the Hold Separate, and that all parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and successors necessary to effectuate the full relief contemplated by this Consent Agreement are parties to the Consent Agreement and are bound thereby as if they had signed this Consent Agreement and were made parties to this proceeding and to the orders.
10. Proposed Respondent has read a draft of the Complaint, the Decision and Order, and the Hold Separate contemplated hereby. Proposed Respondent understands that once the Decision and Order and Hold Separate have been issued it will be required to file one or more compliance reports showing that it has fully complied with the Decision and Order and the Hold Separate. Proposed Respondent agrees to comply with the Decision and Order and the Hold Separate from the date it executes this Consent Agreement. Proposed Respondent further understands that it may be liable for civil penalties in the amount provided by law for each violation of the Decision and Order and the Hold Separate.
11. If the Commission accepts the Consent Agreement for public comment, it will excuse Proposed Respondent from its obligation to comply with all outstanding information

requests and terminate the waiting period established by Section 7A of the Clayton Act,  
15 U.S.C. § 18a.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2002.

SOLVAY S.A.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alois Michielsen  
Chairman of the Executive Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert S. Tovsky  
Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Stuart Meiklejohn  
Counsel for Solvay S.A.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Morris A. Bloom  
Deputy Assistant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Liebeskind  
Assistant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Creighton  
Deputy Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph J. Simons  
Director  
Bureau of Competition