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**To the Copenhagen Stock Exchange**

**28 November 2001  
9/2001**

**THE DANISH BREWERY GROUP'S INTERIM REPORT FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2001**

The Board of Directors of The Danish Brewery Group A/S has today considered and approved the interim accounts for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2001. Financial highlights are enclosed with this announcement.

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Knud Erik Borup  
Chairman of the Board

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Jørgen Worning  
Managing Director

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This announcement consists of 5 pages.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Sales up by 30% for the nine months to date
- Turnover up by 27% for the nine months to date
- Operating profit up by 16% for the period
- Increasing market share in Denmark
- Present expectations to the profit before tax remain unchanged

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (UNAUDITED)

The comparative figures for 1997 included below are based on the pro forma consolidated accounts of the companies merged in 1998, i.e. the former Brewery Group Denmark A/S, Jyske Bryg Holding A/S, Faxe Bryg Holding A/S and Rolink A/S.

The interim report has been prepared on the basis of accounting policies consistent with those used in the 2000 annual accounts

### All amounts in DKK million

	First nine months				
	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Turnover	<b>2,589.0</b>	2,030.9	1,836.2	1,850.4	1,929.5
Operating profit/(loss)	<b>173.8</b>	149.6	141.8	151.1	140.8
Financial items	<b>-36.9</b>	-12.0	58.2	-27.8	-8.3
Profit/(loss) before tax	<b>136.9</b>	137.6	200.0	123.3	132.5
Consolidated profit/(loss)	<b>91.7</b>	89.6	158.3	86.4	84.8
The Danish Brewery Group A/S' share of profit/(loss)	<b>89.7</b>	89.5	158.3	86.4	84.8
Assets	<b>2,439.4</b>	2,008.5	1,986.3	1,722.6	1,877.0
Consolidated shareholders' equity	<b>814.2</b>	772.2	742.6	578.5	629.2
Investments	<b>111.9</b>	109.5	179.0	186.4	94.6
Operating ratio	<b>6.7</b>	7.4	7.7	8.2	7.3
Earnings per share of DKK 10	<b>14.6</b>	14.5	25.5	14.0	13.6
Equity ratio	<b>33.4</b>	38.4	37.4	33.6	33.5

The calculation of ratios has been based on the guidelines issued by the Danish Society of Financial Analysts; however, consolidated shareholders' equity is used in the calculations. The calculation of earnings per share has been based on the number of shares in circulation.

## **GENERAL**

The Danish Brewery Group is made up of the breweries Faxe, Ceres and Thor as well as the Robert Cain Brewery in Liverpool and Vilniaus Tauras in Lithuania. Moreover, Albani Bryggerierne A/S comprising Albani Bryggerierne in Odense and Maribo Bryghus is included as of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2000.

With effect from 1 April 2001, The Danish Brewery Group has acquired 25 per cent of the capital and votes of the Polish distribution company Peva Poland Sp. Z o.o (cf. announcement no. 5/2001 dated 6 June 2001). Part of the payment for the shareholding was 16,000 of the Company's own shares.

From Baltic Beverage Holding (BBH), The Danish Brewery Group has acquired 86.6 per cent of the share capital of Lithuania's third largest brewery Kalnapolis (cf. announcement no. 7/2001 dated 8 October 2001) with effect from 1 October 2001. Subsequently, a redemption offer has been made to the remaining shareholders.

In 2001 The Danish Brewery Group has acquired 40,000 of its own shares. Following the acquisition, the Company holds a total of 136,296 of its own shares (equal to 2.2% of the share capital), which are primarily expected to be used in connection with the existing share option schemes offered to the Company's management team. Own shares are written down against equity on a current basis.

## **RESULTS FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2001**

Sales increased by a total of 25 per cent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter over the same period last year, amounting to 1.2 million hectolitres. 24 percentage points of the increase are accounted for by Albani and Maribo, which were included in the consolidated accounts of The Danish Brewery Group as of 1 October 2000.

Similarly, turnover amounting to DKK 918 million for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter increased by 23 per cent over the same period of 2000. 21 percentage points of the increase originate from Albani and Maribo.

Both sales and turnover were affected in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter by a weak month of September. This situation was aggravated by the tragedy on 11 September 2001.

The operating profit for the quarter amounted to DKK 83.5 million, which is 1 per cent below the operating profit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2000. The main reasons for this development are an increase in sales and distribution costs due to a shift of sales towards the Danish market where sales and distribution costs are traditionally high, costs relating to the acquisition of Albani and Maribo and a considerable decline in international activities towards the end of the quarter. DKK 9.1 million of the operating profit is contributed by Albani and Maribo.

Financial items were affected negatively in the quarter by a write-down of the investment in a brewery in the Cape Verde Islands in connection with the sale of these shares in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

The profit before tax for the quarter amounted to DKK 71.4 million compared to DKK 81.4 million in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2000. The acquisition of Albani has in total effected the results for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter positively by approx. DKK 2 million (after interest).

## **RESULTS FOR THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 2001**

Total sales for the first nine months amounted to 3.4 million hectolitres, which is an increase of 28 per cent over the same period of last year. 26 percentage points of the increase are accounted for by Albani and Maribo which were not included in the accounts for the first nine months of 2000.

The turnover for the period amounted to DKK 2.6 billion, which is 27 per cent higher than in 2000. 21 percentage points of the increase originate from Albani and Maribo.

The operating profit amounted to DKK 173.9 million for the first nine months of 2001, which is an increase of 16 per cent from 2000. DKK 18.3 million of the total increase of DKK 24.3 million over 2000 is contributed by Albani and Maribo. The operating ratio decreased by 0.5 percentage points due to increasing sales and distribution costs as well as Albani's generally lower operating ratio.

The development in financial items primarily reflected increased interest-bearing debt in consequence of the acquisition of the shares of Albani Bryggerierne A/S. Furthermore, income from investments in associates was negatively affected by a write-down of the Group's investment in a brewery in the Cape Verde Islands in connection with the sale of these shares.

The profit before tax for the first nine months of 2001 amounted to DKK 136.9 million compared to DKK 137.6 million for the same period of 2000.

The tax rate for the first nine months amounted to 33 per cent, which is as expected.

In the Danish market, beer sales increased by 9 per cent (including Albani and Maribo 146%) over the same period of 2000, whereas soft drinks sales increased by 3 per cent (including Albani and Maribo 20%). Accordingly, market shares have been won both on beer and soft drinks as the total market for both beer and soft drinks declined in the period. Total Danish sales increased by 4 per cent (including Albani and Maribo 59%) from the same period of 2000, totalling 1.4 million hectolitres.

Danish sales accounting for 44 per cent of the total sales of The Danish Brewery Group went up by 11 per cent from 2000 (including Albani and Maribo 58%).

Total international sales amounted to 2.0 million hectolitres for the first nine months equal to an increase of 2 per cent over 2000 (including Albani and Maribo 14%). International turnover also increased by 2 per cent (including Albani and Maribo 10%). The increase in both sales and turnover is primarily derived from Eastern Europe and from Italy.

## **SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

Shareholders' equity, totalling DKK 698 million at the beginning of the year, amounted to DKK 779.6 million at 30 September 2001 after addition of retained profit for the period and writing down of own shares acquired during the year at a cost of DKK 8.2 million. Furthermore, the shareholders' equity is affected by a write-down of goodwill on consolidation (DKK 4.0 million), revaluation of own shares realised (DKK 3.4 million), dividend on own shares and translation of the equity of foreign subsidiaries.

## EXPECTATIONS TO THE 2000 ACCOUNTS

Whereas the level of activity and results were, as mentioned, disappointing for September, results for October are as expected. On the assumption of normal Christmas sales, the profit before tax for 2001 is still expected to be in the range between DKK 200 and 220 million and the expected profit before tax for 2002 is maintained at between DKK 270 and 290 million. This is in accordance with the BG 2/2001 announcement dated 21 March 2001 as the termination of the Tulip commission and the realisation of the synergies following the acquisition of Albani Bryggerierne A/S has been recognised.

## CHANGE IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

	<u>DKK million</u>
<b>The Danish Brewery Group's share of equity at 1 January 2001</b>	<b>698.0</b>
Goodwill on consolidation	- 4.0
Revaluation of own shares used for acquisition purposes	3.4
Dividend on own shares acquired in 2001	0.2
Acquisition of own shares	- 8.2
Retained profit for the period	89.7
Currency translation adjustment of opening equity of affiliated and associated undertakings	<u>0.5</u>
<b>The Danish Brewery Group's share of equity at 30 September 2001</b>	<b><u>779.6</u></b>

## CHANGE IN MINORITY INTERESTS' SHARE OF CONSOLIDATED EQUITY

	<u>DKK million</u>
<b>Minority interests' share at 1 January 2001</b>	<b>35.1</b>
Group acquisition of shares	-2.7
Share of profit for the period and currency translation adjustment	<u>2.2</u>
<b>Minority interests' share at 30 June 2001</b>	<b><u>34.6</u></b>