

Q3 2016 Aide Memoire

A number of events in 2015 have an impact on the year-on-year comparison for Q3 2016. These include the following items, which you may wish to consider in your modelling. Please note that the items listed below are not exhaustive and that other factors may affect the comparisons for Q3 2016 versus Q3 2015.

Factors impacting comparative figures

Western Europe

In the Q3 2015 announcement, commenting on the volume development, we said:

"The volume growth recovered in Q3 after a weak Q2"

...and in the Q2 2016 announcement, we continued:

"Our volumes were negatively impacted by the reduction of margin-dilutive volumes in the second half of last year in the UK and Finland and the beginning of this year in Poland."

Eastern Europe

At the Q2 2016 conference call we commented on the beginning of Q3:

"...we have seen good performance in Eastern Europe due to very warm weather"

In the Q2 2016 announcement, we commented on price/mix:

"The solid price/mix development was driven by last year's price increases, a weak mix in Q1 last year and price increases this year. However, price/mix slowed during the six months as we have implemented fewer price increases in 2016 compared to the same period last year."

Asia

At the Q1 2016 conference call, we said:

"...we are expecting the Chinese market to continue to be soft for the full year"

...and further elaborated at the Q2 2016 conference call:

"The Chinese market declined by an estimated 6% in volume terms, as it was impacted by the soft economy, socio-economic changes and by anti-extravagance efforts and bad weather."

Outlook

In the Q2 2016 announcement, we commented:

"Based on the results of the first six months and July, the Group maintains its financial outlook for 2016 unchanged and expects to deliver:

- Low-single-digit percentage organic operating profit growth.
- Financial leverage reduction."

...and continued:

"...the organic operating profit growth in the first six months was higher than the Group expects for the second half of the year. In H1, we were cycling easy comparables in Western and Eastern Europe due to last year's poor weather in Q2 in northern Europe and the destocking in Russia, which predominantly impacted the first six months. In addition, we anticipate increased spending behind our SAIL'22 priorities in the second half of the year."

At the Q2 2016 conference call, we said:

"To add a little extra color on the beginning of Q3, we have seen good performance in Eastern Europe due to very warm weather while Western Europe has been soft, which seems to be caused by the fact that there were still some stocks from the system following the euro-related sell-in in June. For second half as a whole, we also expect to start investing in SAIL'22 initiatives."

...and added when asked about the COGS development in H2; and whether the impact would be larger in H2 vs H1:

"That is correct. There will be a transaction impact in Russia in second half."

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