

# The Depository Trust Company

# IMPORTANT

**B#:** 4452

**DATE:** March 14, 2003

**TO:** All Participants

**CATEGORY:** Proxy

**FROM:** DTC Proxy Department

**ATTENTION:** Proxy/Reorganization Manager

**SUBJECT:** GROUPE DANONE  
CUSIP # 399449 10 7

Citibank, N.A. Depository for the above captioned American Depositary Receipts, has advised DTC that Groupe Danone, the issuer of the Ordinary shares underlying these ADR's, is holding its Ordinary General Meeting, and Extraordinary General Meeting on April 11, 2003. Groupe Danone advises Citibank that under the Laws of France, shareholders wishing to vote at the meeting must, among other matters, effectively own shares on the day of the Meeting.

To enable U.S. holders of Groupe Danone ADRs to vote at the meeting, Citibank has established a record date of March 3, 2003. Persons who hold Groupe Danone ADR's on March 3, 2003 and on the day of the meeting and wish to vote the Ordinary Shares underlying their ADRs (subject to any applicable requirements or restrictions under the laws of France or Groupe Danone's Articles of Association) may provide instructions to Citibank. Participants must provide such instructions to Citibank by 10:00 a.m. on April 4, 2003. Participants should obtain the voting instruction forms for that purpose from Citibank by calling Paul Amante (201) 222-4477 or the DTC website at [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org). In addition, Participants must follow the procedure described below.

To provide Citibank with assurance that ADRs on which it has received voting instructions from a Participant will still be held in that Participant's account on the meeting date, DTC has agreed to segregate positions on which voting instructions have been filed under a separate contra-CUSIP number. The number to be used for this purpose is (399449 99 0). A Participant filing voting instructions with Citibank on a position in its DTC account will be asked to provide Citibank as a part of those instructions a letter authorizing DTC to have its nominee, Cede & Co., execute a proxy on the Participant's behalf and to take certain other actions (described below). The form of the authorization letter and the proxy are attached, extra copies will be available from Citibank.

Citibank will advise DTC of all voting instructions received under this procedure and provide DTC with the proxy forms and the authorization letters signed by Participants relating to those instructions. For each such instruction, DTC will then execute the proxy, temporarily deduct the position being voted from the Participant's holdings under the Groupe Danone, ADRs CUSIP (399449 10 7), temporarily credit the position to an account maintained on behalf of Citibank, ADR Contra-CUSIP #(399449 99 0). DTC will return this position to the Participant's account under the base CUSIP number upon instructions from Citibank, once the voting has been completed, this should occur on April 11, 2003.

Inquiries regarding this notice should be directed to Ralph Graves at (212) 855-5187 or Steven McGregor at (212) 855-5198.

Joseph Raniere

Manager

Attachments

**THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY  
55 WATER STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10041**

CITIBANK, N.A., AS DEPOSITARY ("CITIBANK")  
525 WASHINGTON BLVD., SUITE 4726 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310  
ATTN: PAUL AMANTE  
VIA FACSIMILE (201) 222-4593

FOR PURPOSES OF ATTENDING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF GROUPE DANONE, A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF FRANCE ("THE COMPANY"), TO BE HELD IN FRANCE ON APRIL 11, 2003, (THE "MEETING"), TO ADDRESS THE MEETING AND TO VOTE THEREAT.

CEDE & CO., THE NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, ('DTC') CERTIFIES THAT ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT NAMED BELOW, DTC HAS DELIVERED TO A DTC ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF CITIBANK THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS ('ADRs'), SPECIFIED BELOW, WHICH ADRs REPRESENT AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES OF THE COMPANY, UNTIL CITIBANK ADVISES DTC THAT THE MEETING HAS CONCLUDED. CEDE & CO. HEREBY APPOINTS SUCH PARTICIPANTS AS ITS AGENT AND PROXY TO GIVE OR CONFIRM ALL SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO CITIBANK AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO IDENTIFY THE BENEFICIAL OWNER (S) OF THE NUMBER OF ADRs SPECIFIED BELOW AND TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANT OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNER (S) OF THE ADR'S REPRESENTED BY THE ADR'S SPECIFIED BELOW TO ATTEND AND ADDRESS THE MEETING AND VOTE THEREAFTER.

THIS PROXY IS REVOCABLE ANY TIME AND IN ANY MANNER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FILING BY CEDE & CO., WITH CITIBANK OF AN INSTRUMENT SIMILAR TO THIS INSTRUMENT RELATING TO THE VOTING OF ADRS SPECIFIED BELOW AT THE MEETING. THE FILING OF WHICH INSTRUMENT SHALL REVOKE ALL THE AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFIED HEREIN.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF PARTICIPANTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ 2003

\_\_\_\_\_  
FACSIMILE SIGNATURE OF CEDE & CO.

**(PARTICIPANTS LETTERHEAD)**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2003

The Depository Trust Company  
55 Water Street – 50<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10041

RE: Groupe Danone, CUSIP # 399449 10 7

DTC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ADRs \_\_\_\_\_

Gentlemen:

In order to enable the beneficial owner (s) of the number of specified above (the ‘Deposited ADRs) of Groupe Danone American Depository Receipts to vote at the Ordinary General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Groupe Danone, scheduled to be held on April 11, 2003, please take the following actions:

- (1) Have your nominee, Cede & Co., complete and sign the attached Proxy with respect to the deposited ADRs and make the signed Proxy available for pick-up by Citibank and
- (2) Deliver the Deposited ADRs from the undersigned’s above-referenced account to an account with you maintained on behalf of Citibank until Citibank instructs you to return the Deposited ADR’s to the undersigned’s above-referenced account.

The undersigned certifies to you that the Deposited ADRs were on March 3, 2003, and are on the date hereof, on deposit in the undersigned’s above-referenced account.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Participant’s Name)

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) and (Medallion Stamp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title and Telephone Number