

The Depository Trust Company

IMPORTANT

B#: 4485

DATE: March 20, 2003

TO: All Participants

CATEGORY: Proxy

FROM: DTC Proxy Department

ATTENTION: Proxy/Reorganization Manager

SUBJECT: AVENTIS
CUSIP # 053561 10 6

Citibank, N.A. Depository for the above captioned American Depositary Receipts, has advised DTC that Aventis, the issuer of the Ordinary shares underlying these ADR's, is holding its Ordinary General Meeting on April 17, 2003. Aventis 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 **Aventis** ADRs to vote at the meeting, Citibank has established a record date of March 6, 2003. Persons who hold **Aventis** ADR's on March 6, 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 Aventis' Articles of Association) may provide instructions to Citibank. Participants must provide such instructions to Citibank by 10:00 a.m. on April 10, 2003. Participants should obtain the voting instruction forms for that purpose from Citibank by calling **Joyce Davis (201) 222-4094**. 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 (053561 99 9). 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 Aventis, ADRs CUSIP (053561 10 6), temporarily credit the position to an account maintained on behalf of Citibank, ADR Contra-CUSIP #(053561 99 9). 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 18,2003.

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**

VIA FACSIMILE (201) 222-4593

CITIBANK, N.A., AS DEPOSITARY ("CITIBANK")
525 WASHINGTON BLVD., SUITE 4726, 8TH FLOOR
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07303
ATTN: **JOYCE DAVIS**

FOR PURPOSES OF ATTENDING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF AVENTIS, A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF FRANCE ("THE COMPANY"), TO BE HELD IN FRANCE ON APRIL 17, 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 DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS ('ADRS'), SPECIFIED BELOW, WHICH ADRs REPRESENT AMERICAN DEPOSITORY 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 DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS

DATED: _____ 2003

FACSIMILE SIGNATURE OF CEDE & CO.

(PARTICIPANTS LETTERHEAD)

_____, 2003

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

RE: Aventis, CUSIP # 053561 10 6

DTC Account #: _____

Number of ADRs _____

Gentlemen:

In order to enable the beneficial owner (s) of the number of specified above (the 'Deposited ADRs) of Aventis American Depository Receipts to vote at the Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Aventis, scheduled to be held on April 17, 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 6, 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