# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# The Depository Trust Company



#: 5080-09

**Date:** May 19, 2009

**To:** All Participants

Category: Dividends

**From:** International Services

**Attention:** Operations, Reorg & Dividend Managers, Partners & Cashiers

**Subject:** Tax Relief - Country: The Netherlands

Unilever N.V. CUSIP: 904784709

Record Date: 05/20/2009 Payable Date: 06/18/2009

EDS Cut-Off Date: 06/03/2009

As directed in the notice, participants that have qualified beneficial holders that expect to benefit from the procedure should secure the required documentation.

Questions regarding EDS may be directed to Larry Bottiglieri or Rafael Neves of DTC's International Services at (212) 855-4386 or (813) 470-1255.

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To ensure compliance with Internal Revenue Service Circular 230, you are hereby notified that: (a) any discussion of federal tax issues contained or referred to herein is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code; and (b) as a matter of policy, DTC does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice and accordingly, you should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisor before engaging in any transaction.

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Citibank, N.A. c/o Globe Tax Services, Inc. 90 Broad Street, 16th Floor New York, NY 10004-2205



#### UNILEVER N.V.

CUSIP: 904784709 RECORD DATE: May 20, 2009 PAY DATE: June 18, 2009

The Board of Directors of Unilever N.V., on **May 14, 2009**, declared a final dividend in cash in respect of the year **2008** amounting to **Euro 0.51** per share on its outstanding Ordinary Shares of **Euro 0.16** nominal amount each.

The final dividend shall be paid by us on **June 18, 2009**, to holders of record of New York Shares at the close of business on **May 20, 2009**. Payment, which shall be made by U.S. dollar checks, shall be based on the Euro/Dollar European Central Bank rate of exchange on **May 14, 2009**, less the applicable amount of Netherlands withholding tax on dividends.

#### Netherlands Withholding Tax on Dividends

The basic Netherlands withholding tax on dividends is 15%.

With effect from January 1, 1994, the Tax Convention of December 18, 1992 between the United States of America and the Netherlands which was amended by the Protocol signed on March 8, 2004 (the "Tax Convention") entered into force.

Below is a brief and incomplete summary of the Tax Convention.

With regard to any particular circumstances and local tax consequences, advice should be obtained from your own tax counsel.

#### General:

Individuals resident in the United States, as well as the U.S. Government, its political subdivisions and its local authorities can claim treaty benefits. U.S. resident persons other than the before mentioned must satisfy the conditions of Article 26 (Limitation on Benefits) of the Tax Convention in order to qualify for treaty reduction of Netherlands withholding tax on dividends.

As described below there is a procedure for relief at source except for exempt organizations (e.g. charities) as dealt with in Article 36 of the Tax Convention. If this procedure is not utilized a refund may be obtained.

# 15% Netherlands Withholding Tax:

Under the Tax Convention the reduced rate of 15% Netherlands withholding tax on dividends applies to individuals resident in the United States and to corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of a state or territory thereof and any other legal person subject to United States Federal income tax with respect to its worldwide income, provided the shares on which the dividend is paid are not effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base of the shareholder in the Netherlands.

0% Netherlands Withholding Tax:

Under the Tax Convention the rate of Netherlands withholding tax is generally reduced to 0% for dividends received by certain United States organizations that are generally exempt from United States Federal income tax and that are constituted and operated exclusively to administer or provide pension, retirement or other employee benefits (**Exempt Pension Trusts**, **Article 35 of the Tax Convention**).

In order to secure Article 35 benefits, Depository Participants must PROVIDE the following PRIOR to June 3, 2009 5PM EST:

#### **EITHER**

• Certification letter (Form 6166) by the U.S. IRS for the taxable year(s) in question, stating that the trust in question is a trust forming part of a pension, profit sharing, or stock bonus plan qualified under Code section 401(a) of the IRC; or <u>for all qualifying U.S.</u> pension types (including qualified pension plans under Code section 401(a)),

# <u>OR</u>

• Qualification certification by the competent Netherlands tax authorities, stating that the trust in question is a U.S. resident tax exempt trust as described in article 35, paragraph 1 of the treaty.

#### AND

• Client Listing providing the beneficial owner information, detailing the clients who are claiming the exemption (APPENDIX A – LISTING OF EXEMPT ENTITIES)

Full refund of 15% Netherlands Withholding Tax:

Under the Tax Convention, certain United States organizations that are generally exempt from United States Federal income tax and that are constituted and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, educational or public purposes (**Exempt Organizations, Article 36 of the Tax Convention**), are now subject to an initial 15% Netherlands withholding tax on dividends. Such an Exempt Organization, if it would be exempt from tax in the Netherlands if it were organized and carried on all its activities therein, is entitled to reclaim directly from the Netherlands Tax Authorities a full refund of the 15% Netherlands withholding tax. (See below).

Reduced Netherlands Withholding Tax Rates under other tax conventions and the Tax Regulation for the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

For share holders resident in any country other than the United States and the Netherlands, the availability of a whole or partial exemption or refund of the Netherlands withholding tax is governed by the Tax Regulation for the Kingdom of the Netherlands or the respective Tax Convention between the Netherlands and the country of the shareholder's residence.

#### **PROCEDURE**

#### Procedure for Banks, Brokers and Nominees who are participants in a Depository System

Using the Depository Trust Company's ("DTC") Elective Dividend System ("EDS"), you are requested to certify the number of ADRs in your account beneficially owned by:

1) exempt pension trusts resident in the United States, as referred to in Article 35 of the Tax

- Convention (while sending the required Form 6166 or Netherlands issued Qualification certification to Citibank N.A. c/o GlobeTax, 90 Broad Street 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004);
- 2) exempt organizations resident in the United States, as referred to in Article 36 of the Tax Convention;
- 3) residents of Indonesia, China, Venezuela, Czech Republic, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovak Republic, or Taiwan convention (while sending the required tax forms 'IB 92 UNIVERSEEL' to Citibank N.A. c/o GlobeTax, 90 Broad Street 16th Floor, New York, NY 10004); (5% refund);
- 4) exempt pension trusts or other tax-exempt entity entitled to claim an exemption of tax as a resident in a European Union (E.U.) member state (while sending the required tax form "Dividend tax refund for foreign legal entities which are not liable to pay profits tax" to Citibank N.A. c/o GlobeTax, 90 Broad Street 16th Floor, New York, NY 10004); (15% refund):
- 5) other residents of the United States or any other country with a treaty rate of 15% or greater;

You are also requested to confirm that changes, if any, in your dividend declarations in respect of previous record dates have been separately reported to us. At the time that you become aware that previous dividend payments were made on a 90% or 100% basis while the shareholders were entitled to only 85% or 90% of the dividend, the 5%, 10%, or 15% withholding tax difference must be refunded to us without delay. In order to receive on the payment date the dividend after deduction of Netherlands withholding tax at a reduced rate, the Split Letter, and the requisite tax affidavits must be received by us on or prior to **June 3, 2009**.

On June 18, 2009, we will make available to each depository a sufficient amount of immediately available funds to pay dividends on all Shares registered in the nominee name of the depository provided however that we shall withhold 15% of the declared dividend, pursuant to Netherlands law.

On June 18, 2009, we will make available to each depository a sufficient amount of immediately available funds to each participant from whom we have received a Split Letter and Supporting Documentation by June 3, 2009, a supplemental payment for 15% of the dividend with respect to those Shares reported to be beneficially owned by exempt pension trusts as dealt within Article 35 of the Tax Convention that are resident in the United States and that satisfy the conditions of Article 26 of that Convention.

After **June 3, 2009**, any refund of the 5% or 15% difference in Netherlands tax can only be obtained directly from the Netherlands Tax Authorities within the timeframe defined in the treaty between the Netherlands and the country of residence of the beneficial owner, generally set as **three years** after the expiration of the calendar year in which the tax has been levied. In this case a separate request must be filed by each beneficial owner with the Belastingdienst Limburg/kantoor buitenland, P.O. Box 2865, 6401 DJ Heerlen, The Netherlands on a duly completed Tax Form as outlined below (\*) (**NOT** to be used by a U.S. charity or other exempt organization as dealt with in Article 36 of the Tax Convention; see (4), which should be accompanied by proof of the withholding and a satisfactory explanation of the reasons why the dividend payment was not obtained with the procedure described above.

Please note that no supplemental checks will be mailed with respect to U.S. exempt organizations (e.g. charities) as dealt with in Article 36, first paragraph of the Tax Convention. These exempt organizations, provided they satisfy the conditions of Article 26 of that Convention, can obtain a full refund of Netherlands dividend tax <u>directly from the Netherlands Tax Authorities</u> within three years after the expiration of the calendar year in which the tax has been levied. Therefore a separate request must be filed by each beneficial owner with the Belastingdienst Limburg/kantoor buitenland, P.O. Box 2865, 6401 DJ Heerlen, The Netherlands on a duly completed Tax Form IB 95 USA (\*), which should be accompanied by proof of the withholding. The proof of withholding will be provided if requested on the Split Letter. (Please note: In this case form IB 92 USA (\*) may **not** be used.) The applicant should state the manner in and the address to which the Netherlands Tax Authorities should transmit the refund amount.

ALL CLAIMS FILED AFTER JUNE 3, 2009 MUST BE FILED THROUGH THE LONG-FORM PROCESS EITHER DIRECTLY WITH THE NETHERLANDS TAX AUTHORITIES

#### OR THROUGH CITIBANK, N.A. / GLOBETAX.

# **ESP** Electronic Submission Portal

powered by GLOBETAX

Citibank N.A., now offers ESP powered by GlobeTax, a paperless withholding tax reclaim process, for Exempt Organizations (qualified under Article 36 of the Tax Convention) and Exempt Pension Trusts (qualified under Article 35 of the Tax Convention) to participants holding New York Shares.

These claims should be submitted through the following web site. (Requires a one-time registration)

https://www.globetaxesp.com

Please contact Mr. Brendan Jordan at 1-800-628-4646 if you have any questions about this process.

Please note: The advanced tax relief is subject to a Tax Reclaim Processing Fee of \$0.0035 per share. Long-form reclaims are subject to a Tax Reclaim Processing Fee of \$0.005 per share.

<u>ATTENTION</u>: REFUNDS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY DELAYED IF THE REQUIRED FORMS ARE NOT PROPERLY FILLED OUT.

# SCHEDULE OF COUNTRIES THE RESIDENTS OF WHICH ARE ENTITLED TO PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM NETHERLANDS WITHHOLDING TAX

Under the Tax Regulation for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and under various tax conventions concluded by the Netherlands, the residents of the following countries are entitled to a reduction of the Netherlands withholding tax, upon the filing of the required tax form, which must be certified by the competent tax authority in their country of residence:

# **Reduction to 0%**

All European Union (EU) entities that are exempt from tax in their country of residence.

"Dividend tax refund for foreign legal entities Which are not liable to pay profit tax"

# Reduction to 10%

Indonesia, China, Venezuela, Czech Republic, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovak Republic, and Taiwan **IB 92 UNIVERSEEL** 

All such forms are obtainable, on application, from: Citibank N.A., c/o GlobeTax, 90 Broad Street 16th Floor, New York, NY 10004, U.S.A., Telephone: Brendan Jordan 1-800-628-4646 or 1-212-747-9100.

All completed tax forms should be sent to:

Citibank N.A. c/o GlobeTax, 90 Broad Street 16th Floor, New York, NY 10004, U.S.A., Brendan Jordan 1-800-628-4646 (1-212-747-9100)

#### IMPORTANT - This requisition form must reach Citibank, N.A. not later than June 3, 2009

By Hand or Mail: Citibank, N.A. (c/o Globe Tax Services) 90 Broad Street - 16th Floor New York, New York 10004

For information, please call 1-800-628-4646

Re: Unilever N.V. N.V. ("Unilever N.V.") Common Shares of New York Registry Certificates of 0.20 Euros Par Value – CUSIP 904784709

In accordance with your request we furnish below information of the residence status of the beneficial owners of the shares on the record date of **May 20, 2009**:

Shares beneficially owned by exempt United States pension trusts, or organizations as referred to in <i>Article 35 of the Tax Convention of 1992</i> on which 85% of the dividend is payable and the reduced tax rate of 0% will be claimed.U.S. resident tax exempt trusts providing pension or retirement benefits under the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code: section 401(a) qualified pension plans, profit sharing plans, or stock bonus plans, including section 401(k) arrangements, section 457(b) pension plan, 403 (b) plan, individual retirement accounts under section 408, a Roth IRA under section 408A, as well as simplified employee pension plans and simple retirement accounts. US resident common trust funds or groups under section 501(a). Important B Effective July 1, 2000, to be able to take advantage of this payment option, the claimant must have on-site documentation consisting of IRS Form 6166 and/or a Certificate of Qualification from the Dutch Tax Authorities depending on the entity type of each underlying beneficial owner. Additionally, U.S. resident tax exempt trusts providing pension or retirement benefits under the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code: section 457(b) pension plan, 403 (b) plan, individual retirement accounts under section 408, a Roth IRA under section 408A, as well as simplified employee pension plans and simple retirement accounts WILL NOT be considered to qualify for treaty benefits under Article 35 of the treaty in any taxable year if less than 70% of the total amount of withdrawals from such U.S. trust during that year is used to provide pension, retirement or other employee benefits as meant in Article 35 of the treaty.(Note: The additional 15% of Netherlands withholding tax is being claimed via this split letter)(*DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED)  Check this box to notify Citibank N.A. that you will file this reclaim through ESP. If this box is checked Citibank N.A. will maintain the Certification (DLD) "in-house" and process the claim upon receipt of the file.	SHARES
ADRs beneficially owned by exempt United States pension trusts, or organizations as referred to in <i>Article 35 of the Tax Convention of 1992</i> on which 85% of the dividend is payable and is eligible for a reduced tax rate of 0%. Claimant is unable to provide an appropriate IRS Form 6166 and/or a Certificate of Qualification from the Dutch Tax Authorities by the deadline, and must file a long form reclaim to recover the 15% tax withheld (NO 2009 IRS FORM 6166 or a Certificate of Qualification from the Dutch Tax Authorities available)	
Shares beneficially owned by exempt United States charitable organizations as referred to in <i>Article 36 of the Tax Convention of 1992</i> (i.e.: operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, educational or public purpose) on which 85% of the dividend is payable and subject to the full 15% Netherlands withholding tax and for which proof of withholding (Certification-Declaration in lieu of the Dividend Note) is requested. U.S. entities such as tax exempt: Foundations, Endowments, Charities and Universities under such U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code sections as 501(a), 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), 509(a)(3), & 170(b). (Note: The claim for 15% Netherlands withholding tax must be filed directly with the Tax Authorities in the Netherlands via claim form IB-95 USA per beneficial owner along with the Citibank N.A. produced proof of withholding)	
Check this box to notify Citibank N.A. that you will file this reclaim through ESP. If this box is checked Citibank N.A. will maintain the Certification (DLD) "in-house" and process the claim upon receipt of the file.	
Shares beneficially owned by residents of Indonesia, China, Venezuela, Czech Republic, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovak Republic, or Taiwan on which the reduced Netherlands withholding tax rate of 10% will be claimed and for which appropriate tax form IB 92 UNIVERSEEL is delivered herewith (5% refund)	
Shares beneficially owned by exempt pension trusts or other tax-exempt entity entitled to claim an exemption of tax as a resident in a European Union (EU) member state	
Shares beneficially owned by all other persons who cannot or do not claim the application of any tax convention concluded with the Netherlands or the Tax Regulation for the Kingdom of the Netherlands that is in excess of the statutory 15% withholding rate and on which 85% of the dividend is payable and subject to the full 15% Netherlands withholding tax	
TOTAL HELD	

We understand that if there is any difference between the shares registered in our name on the record date in the Registered Shareholder list, Citibank, N.A. will rely on the Securities Position Listing and will adjust the number of shares shown above as beneficially owned by residents of the United States to take account of such difference.

We hereby accept full liability for any amount of Netherlands Dividend Tax received by us pursuant to the Split Letter to which we are not entitled (an Erroneous Refund), and agree to promptly pay the amount of any Erroneous Refund, together with applicable interest and penalties, to Citibank, N.A.. We further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Citibank, N.A., its officers, directors, employees, agents and affiliated companies from and against any loss, liability or expense (including attorney's fees) in connection with the receipt of any Erroneous Refund.

We hereby confirm that any changes in our dividend declarations in respect of previous record dates have been separately reported to Citibank, N.A.

The applicant certifies that the shares being claimed for at a favourable tax rate have not been obtained by virtue of any contract, option or arrangement under which the beneficial owner has agreed, or might be obliged to resell or to transfer these securities or to sell or transfer similar securities.

# The Split Letter is subject to review by the Tax Authorities in the Netherlands

<b>Company Name:</b>	
Address:	
Participant Number:	
Stockholder's Signature	
Print Name	_
Contact Telephone #	

A PAYMENT OF 85% OF THE GROSS DIVIDEND IN RESPECT OF ALL SHARES HELD AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON May 20, 2009 WILL BE MADE ON June 18, 2009. AN ADDITIONAL CHECK OF 5% OR 15%, AS THE CASE MAY BE, OF THE GROSS DIVIDEND WILL BE MAILED THEREAFTER AS AND WHEN REQUIRED UPON RECEIPT OF THIS FORM ON OR BEFORE November 30, 2012.

# APPENDIX A – LISTING OF EXEMPT ENTITIES

Please place on your Company Letterhead

TO: Citibank, N.A./GlobeTax

# IB96/IB95 Article 35/36 Tax Reclaim Request Form

ISSUE: CUSIP: RECORD DATE: PAY DATE:						
Full Beneficial Owner Name  1. 2. 3. 4. Etc.	Address	# Shares Held	Type of Acct (Pension or Charity)	Tax Paver I. D. #		
	Total Share	s:				
Please include a disk if there are more than 5 beneficial owners.						
We ask that Citibank, N.A., as Dobeneficial owner(s). Please contact				bove-mentioned		
Sincerely,						
[Signature of authorized DTC I [Name and title of authorized D [Address and telephone # of aut	TC Participant	t signatory]				

Claims are subject to a depositary service charge equivalent to \$0.005 per share with a minimum charge of \$25.00 per beneficial owner.

Completed claims should be sent to: Citibank, N.A. / GlobeTax

90 Broad Street – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

NY, NY 10004

# Indemnification

We hereby accept full liability for any amount of Netherlands Dividend Tax received by us pursuant to IB95/96 filings to which we are not entitled (an erroneous refund), and agree to promptly pay the amount of any erroneous refund, together with applicable interest and penalties, to Citibank, N.A. We further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Citibank, N.A., its officers, directors, employees, agents and affiliated companies from and against any loss, liability or expense (including attorney's fees) in connection with the receipt of any erroneous refund. We further agree to hold Citibank, N.A. harmless if it fails to secure a reduced rate of withholding.

Revised 4/1/09