



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Avril closes on the Vivien Paille acquisition**

***Paris, June 30, 2022 - Pursuant to the announcement last December that Avril had entered into exclusive negotiations with the InVivo Group for the purchase of its entire shareholding in Soufflet Alimentaire (Vivien Paille brand), Avril today announces the final completion of the transaction along with the change of Soufflet Alimentaire's name to Vivien Paille, its flagship brand.***

This new milestone will contribute to implementing Avril's strategic plan, in line with its ambition of becoming the leader in plant-based solutions for agricultural, food, and environmental transitions. The Group is thus consolidating its market positions in two of its key development objectives: Consumer Goods (CG) and healthy, sustainable plant-based food ingredients.

For the Vivien Paille teams, integrating into Avril marks a new development phase for the company. With its two production sites in France, Vivien Paille will play a part in accelerating Avril's ambitions in the vegetable protein market.

Jean-Philippe Puig, Avril's CEO, commented, *"I am delighted to receive the Vivien Paille teams into the Avril Group. On behalf of all our employees, I extend a warm welcome to them. We share the same core values and commitments, in particular by supporting the development of national sectors in the service of transitions. Vivien Paille is going to make a strong contribution towards strengthening our presence in the plant processing market, in line with our strategic priorities, while remaining true to our purpose, Serving the Earth."*

Thierry Liévin, General Manager of Vivien Paille added: *"We are delighted to become part of Avril. The strength of the Group, together with our expertise and historical know-how, will enable us to further strengthen our positions in the legume, mixed grain, and rice markets, along with developing new categories. Together, we will pursue our commitment to healthy, sustainable food, while meeting consumers' new expectations."*

#### About Vivien Paille

Vivien Paille is a processor and packager of rice, legumes, and grain mixes, both dried and sterilized in sachets. It is also the French specialist in functional flours made from gluten-free rice and legumes.

The new Avril business unit develops its products under the Vivien Paille and VP Ingredients brands (naturally derived vegetable proteins) for the industrial, catering, and mass retail markets. The company has a long-standing commitment to the development of French rice production in the Camargue, green lentils in the Puy and Champagne regions, along with quinoa, and is an expert in international sourcing.

Vivien Paille employs a workforce of 290 at two sites in France: Valenciennes in the Nord and Arles in the Bouches-du-Rhône.

### About Avril

Founded in 1983 as an initiative of the agricultural world to ensure sustainable outlets for French production, Avril is the main industrial and financial player in the vegetable oil and protein sector. It is built upon two complementary businesses that are key to the strength of its model. On the one hand, an industrial business organized around plant processing, from the seed to the processed product. And on the other hand, an investment business, carried out by its subsidiary, Sofiprotéol, through the acquisition of minority holdings in support of companies in the French agricultural and agri-food sectors.

Present in sectors as diversified as consumer food, animal nutrition expertise, renewable energies, and green chemistry, Avril relies on a portfolio of well-known brands that are leaders in their fields both in France and abroad: Bunica (Romania), Costa d'Oro (Italy), Lesieur, Oleo100, Olean, Puget, Sanders, and Taous (Morocco).

For nearly 40 years, the Group has remained true to its original mission: feeding people and animals, and preserving the planet. In view of the current challenges posed by the climate emergency and the demographic growth that is putting a strain on resources, Avril has chosen to reaffirm its power to act, expressed through its purpose: Serving the Earth. Serving the Earth and the six commitments that support this purpose are a genuine driving force for the men and women of Avril on a daily basis. They reflect the Group's new ambition to become the leader in plant-based solutions for the agricultural, food, and environmental transitions.

In 2021, Avril generated revenue of €6.9 billion. Present in 19 countries, it employs nearly 7,348 people working in 73 industrial sites around the world. For more information: [groupeavril.com](https://groupeavril.com) | Twitter @Avril | LinkedIn Avril

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