



**“Foodpartners International closes the acquisitions of Weidelco Foodpartners, a Dutch wholesaler with a complete range of products for the food sector and its Belgian sector peer Group Claes, with the support of Sofindex Private Equity Partners. At the same time, the group continues its international growth with the acquisition of the French sector player Dumortier.”**

18 February 2022

On 23 December 2021, Sofindex announced that Weidelco Foodpartners, the Dutch wholesaler with a complete range of products for the food sector, and its Belgian sector peer Group Claes signed a strategic partnership, backed by Sofindex. The newly combined group, Foodpartners International, is a leading player in the delivery of supplies to the food sector in the Benelux.

Today, 18 February 2022, Foodpartners International BV is pleased to announce that it has closed the acquisitions of Weidelco Foodpartners and Group Claes, with the support of Sofindex as majority shareholder and the Rolf and Claes families as significant minority shareholders. At the same time, Foodpartners International announces the next step in the international development of the group, with the acquisition of the French company Dumortier.

Dumortier, with its headquarters in Roncq, is a well-established food wholesale business and supplier of a multitude of supplies for butchers and supermarkets in the north of France. Dumortier’s owner and general manager, Thierry Dansette, has decided to join forces with Foodpartners International.



Similar to the situation of the Claes family which continues to manage Group Claes in Belgium, and the Rolf family who stays in charge of the management of Weidelco in the Netherlands, Thierry Dansette will remain active as general manager of Dumortier in France. Thierry Dansette has also acquired a minority interest in Foodpartners International, just like the Claes and Rolf families.



# Sofindev

Dumortier is a regional supplier of butchery supplies, such as packaging, spices, cleaning products, nets and artificial casings, and equipment for the food sector, with two branches in the northern French region of Nord-Pas-de Calais, in Roncq and Arras.

The activities and the offering of Dumortier are very similar to those of Group Claes and Weidelco and also its history and family background. The partnership of Thierry Dansette with Foodpartners International and the Belgian and Dutch families Claes and Rolf stem from the shared desire to ensure the continuity of their business, due to the lack of family succession and the attractive proposition to become part of a strong group with a family background and values. This will allow Group Claes, Weidelco and Dumortier to continue their growth and further strengthen their position in their respective geographical markets.

Through the combination of Dumortier with Weidelco Foodpartners and Group Claes in the new group 'Foodpartners International', an international group is created, supported by a strong financial partner, Sofindev, and the continued significant ownership and strong management by the Claes and Rolf families and Thierry Dansette.

With the support and guidance of Sofindev, the companies of the group will continue their strong growth track record of the recent years. Their cooperation will allow them to offer their customers an even broader and more qualitative offering and service. It will also create more opportunities for the personal development of their employees, on a national and international level.

The combined group counts approximately 340 employees located in three countries, on 8 locations, in the Netherlands (Leeuwarden, Tilburg, Sittard and Zwolle), Belgium (Beringen and Wommelgem) and France (Arras and Roncq). On a pro forma combined basis, the group realized more than 150 MEUR turnover in 2021.

## About Sofindev

Sofindev is a leading independent private equity firm, specialized in buyout and growth capital for small and mid-sized companies in the Benelux region. Sofindev celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. In the past decade, Sofindev has evolved into a fully independent investment team supported by a large number of respected family offices and (international) institutional investors. Amongst them are also the entrepreneurs and owners of family businesses which Sofindev invested in in the past.

The Sofindev funds have made equity investments of more than 300 MEUR in more than 50 small and medium sized companies. Currently, the Sofindev Management team manages the Sofindev IV fund (°2015) with committed capital of 107 MEUR and the Sofindev V fund (°December 2019), with total commitments of 170 MEUR. Just like Sofindev IV, Sofindev V realizes equity investments in successful Benelux-based SMEs, in partnership with the entrepreneurs and management teams of these companies, to support their further growth.

About Dumortier: [www.epices-dumortier.fr](http://www.epices-dumortier.fr)

About Sofindev: [www.sofindev.com](http://www.sofindev.com)

About Weidelco: [www.weidelco.nl](http://www.weidelco.nl)

About Group Claes: [www.groupclaes.be](http://www.groupclaes.be)