



Alliance UniChem

9 May 2006

**NOT FOR RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION IN, INTO OR FROM THE USA, AUSTRALIA,  
CANADA OR JAPAN**

### **Merger Update**

The Boards of Alliance UniChem Plc and Boots Group PLC welcome the judgment of the Competition Appeal Tribunal to dismiss Celesio's application for review of the Office of Fair Trading's decision published on 22 February 2006 to accept undertakings in lieu of a reference of the proposed merger of Boots and Alliance UniChem to the Competition Commission.

Boots and Alliance UniChem expect to agree the final details of undertakings with the Office of Fair Trading in the near future. Preparations for the proposed merger are well advanced and the parties intend to commence the formal process for effecting the merger shortly after the preliminary announcement on 18 May of Boots' results for the year ending 31 March 2006. Both Boards expect that all outstanding preconditions and conditions will be satisfied to enable the merger to become effective on 31 July 2006.

**- Ends -**

#### **Enquiries:**

Alliance UniChem Plc  
Marco Pagni / Gerald Gradwell

01932 870550

Gavin Anderson & Company  
Richard Constant / Deborah Walter

020 7554 1400