

# Press Release

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## **UM sells Asturienne Penamet to the French Point P group**

The Union Minière Group has sold to the French Group Point P its subsidiary Asturienne Penamet, which is specialised in the distribution of roofing, bathroom and heating equipment in France.

This sale confirms the determination of Union Minière's Building Products business unit to concentrate its activities on the production and transformation of zinc and lead for the construction industry.

The sale will have a positive impact on the 1998 consolidated accounts of Union Minière.

Asturienne Penamet employs 340 people in 21 centres throughout France. Its 1997 turnover was around 680 million French francs.

Point P is part of the Saint-Gobain Group, and is France's leading group in the distribution and sale of building materials. It currently employs around 9,000 people in 800 agencies. Its turnover amounts to 14.5 billion French francs. The Point P Group intends to keep the Asturienne Penamet trade name and its current dual Roofing and Bathroom-Heating activity.

This acquisition strengthens the Point P Group's positions in these two sectors of the building trade in France. Point P and Union Minière agreed to intensify their respective efforts in order to develop the market for the rolled metal products from Union Minière's Building Products business unit.

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