28th October 2016

Sanofi

Healthcare

Price EUR68.86

Bloomberg Reuters 12-month High , Market Cap (EU Ev (BG Estimate Avg. 6m daily vo 3y EPS CAGR	SAN FP SASY.PA 93.3 / 67.3 88,769 96,165 2 431 2.6%			
	1 M	3 M	6 M 31	/12/15
Absolute perf.	1.4%	-10.2%	-10.6%	-12.4%
Healthcare	-5.7%	-10.6%	-5.3%	-13.3%
DJ Stoxx 600	0.4%	-0.3%	-1.9%	-6.6%
YEnd Dec. (EURm)	2015	2016e	2017e	2018e
Sales	36,575	35,970	36,779	38,358
% change		-1.7%	2.2%	4.3%
EBITDA	11,237	10,722	10,472	10,731
EBIT	9,948	9,595	9,620	9,942
% change		-3.5%	0.3%	3.3%
Net income	7,371	6,995	7,080	7,796
% change		-5.1%	1.2%	10.1%
	2015	2016e	2017e	2018e
Operating margin	27.2	26.7	26.2	25.9
Net margin	20.2	19.4	19.3	20.3
ROE	12.9	12.0	11.9	12.6
ROCE	11.9	11.2	11.0	11.2
Gearing	12.7	12.7	9.8	6.1
(EUR)	2015	2016e	2017e	2018 e
EPS	5.64	5.47	5.54	6.10
% change	-	-3.0%	1.2%	10.1%
P/E	12.2x	12.6x	12.4x	11.3x
FCF yield (%)	5.0%	6.6%	6.1%	7.0%
Dividends (EUR)	2.93	3.00	3.15	3.50
Div yield (%)	4.3%	4.4%	4.6%	5.1%
EV/Sales	2.6x	2.7x	2.6x	2.4x
EV/EBITDA	8.6x	9.0x	9.0x	8.6x
EV/EBIT	9.7x	10.0x	9.8x	9.3x



Better-than-expected Q3 numbers, largely driven by Vaccines and cost control

Fair Value EUR83 (+21%)

NEUTRAL

Sanofi has reported third-quarter numbers well above estimates, reflecting good Sanofi Pasteur sales figures (same impact as with GSK in flu vaccines in the US) but also very good management of operating costs. Sanofi now expects savings to exceed EUR1.5bn by 2018. Core EPS guidance is raised to 3-4% growth vs flat for the year. No mention of mid-term guidance. Consensus shoud revise core EPS for 2016 up by about 3%, but following years might remain unchanged. Issue with facility inspection might translate into a delay in sarilumab approval by the FDA. Positive reaction expected.

ANALYSIS

- Earlier this morning, Sanofi reported better-than-expected third-quarter numbers, characterised by figures above consensus estimates both at the top and the bottom line levels. Revenues came out about EUR150m above expectations and this is fully attributable to Sanofi Pasteur which benefitted from the same phenomenon as GSK's i.e. early shipment of flu vaccines in the US compared to last year while we had expected GSL to have taken the lead. Out of an already pretty high basis, flu vaccines are nevertheless again growing by 35% in the quarter to EUR989m, which together with a contribution of DengVaxia of EUR30m, drove total Sanofi Pasteur up by 14.4% in the quarter. Of course, this has also a positive impact on the division margins.
- Looking quickly into the other products and divisions, we see limited spreads vs expectations although it is fair to say that once again Genzyme strongly participated to the growth in the quarter with a 17% increase for the whole division, largely driven by MS (+53%) and more particularly by Aubagio, up 48% to EUR326m. We would also note the good contribution of Diabetes and Specialty Care in emerging markets, respectively up 14% and 26.5%. If there is a disappointment in this good set of revenue numbers, this is certainly with Merial (which reported a growth of only 4% in the quarter) but which can easily be attributed to the upcoming swap with Boehringer Ingelheim and is therefore of little significance.
- Moving now to earnings, Sanofi reported core EPS of EUR1.79 for the quarter when CS was EUR1.54 and BG EUR1.55, so this is a major beat. This partially comes from Sanofi Pasteur of course, as explained above, but not only and Sanofi is right in pointing out that operating expenses have been managed very well and the company is adding that it is now expecting savings to reach or exceed EUR1.5bn by 2018. R&D and SG&A expenses were all above estimates in the quarter. We note also that VaxServe other revenues and share of profits from associates (Regeneron stake) were both above estimates. So, better-than-expected earnings are reflecting a series of good underlying trends and contributions at different levels. In the end, core EPS came out well above expectations at EUR1.79 (vs EUR1.54) and guidance for the year is increased from flat to 3-4% growth. Together with a currency impact of -4% (exp.), this means flat core EPS in reported terms vs 2015 i.e. a 3% beat over estimates (only 1% for our own assumptions).
- Besides numbers, note that observations after an FDA inspection to a facility in Ireland might translate into a delay with the approval of sarilumab which was expected tomorrow.

VALUATION

- We expect some revisions upwards for 2016 numbers by about 3%, as we said above. However, core EPS for 2017 is unlikely to be massively modified except to reflect the impact from a share buy-back now announced to be EUR3.5bn by the end of 2017. However, at the time of the announcement of the asset swap with B.I., Sanofi had suggested that part of the EUR4bn cash to be received would be returned to shareholders to balance dilution. We had calaculated at the time that about EUR3bn would have to be returned. This is therefore confirmation. Not sure however that everything was already computed into the models. It is not in ours.
- We do of course anticipate u positive share price reaction today. However, beyond 2016, numbers
 are unlikely to be impacted meaningfully and uncertainties about Diabetes, LixiLan and Praluent
 patent litigation are still playing as brakes to the stock performance.

NEXT CATALYSTS

Today 2.30pm: Conference Call - Click here to download document



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	will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.				

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