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NEWS RELEASE

Regulated information

95% new Shares subscribed in Rights Offering – Launch of Scrips Offering

15 March 2011

Nyrstar announced today that 95% of the total number of 70,009,282 new Nyrstar shares (the "**Shares**") offered pursuant to its rights offering in the amount of €490,064,974.00 (the "**Rights Offering**" and, together with the Scrips Offering referred to below, the "**Offering**") have been subscribed at €7.00 per new Share (the "**Subscription Price**").

The new Shares were offered with non-statutory preference rights (the "**Rights**") at a ratio of 7 new Shares for 10 Rights (the "**Ratio**"). The new Shares will be issued with VVPR strips (the "**VVPR Strips**"). The Rights were tradable on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels from 25 February 2011 to 11 March 2011. Subject to restrictions under applicable securities laws, existing shareholders of Nyrstar as at the closing of such regulated market on 24 February 2011 and persons having acquired Rights during the period from 25 February 2011 until 11 March 2011 (by 4.00 pm CET) (the "**Rights Subscription Period**") had the right to subscribe for the new Shares at the Subscription Price and in accordance with the Ratio. The Rights Subscription Period ended at 4.00 p.m. CET on 11 March 2011.

The 4,962,562 Rights that have not been exercised at the end of the Rights Subscription Period will be converted into an equal number of scrips (the "**Scrips**"). Goldman Sachs International and Deutsche Bank AG, London Branch (the "**Joint Bookrunners**") and Fortis Bank, ING Belgium and KBC Securities (referred to collectively as the "**Co-lead Managers**" and together with the Joint Bookrunners, the "**Underwriters**") will offer and sell the Scrips through an accelerated bookbuilding procedure in an institutional offering (i) by way of an exempt private placement in Belgium and elsewhere outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act, and (ii) within the United States solely to qualified institutional buyers (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) in transactions exempt from registration under the U.S. Securities Act (the "**Scrips Offering**"). Goldman Sachs International is acting as Global Coordinator for the Offering. Purchasers of Scrips will have the obligation to subscribe for new Shares and VVPR Strips corresponding to the number of Scrips acquired by them in accordance with the Ratio. The Scrips Offering is expected to start today, 15 March 2011, and is expected to end on the same day. The results of the Scrips Offering will be announced promptly after its completion.

The Underwriters have agreed to subscribe for any new Shares and VVPR Strips not taken up in the Offering, subject to the terms and conditions of an underwriting agreement.

The net proceeds, if any, of the sale of the Scrips will be divided proportionally between all holders of Rights that have not been exercised at the end of the Rights Subscription Period, unless the net proceeds of the sale of Scrips divided by the number of unexercised Rights is less than €0.01.

The results of the Scrips Offering as well as the amount (if any) of the net proceeds of the sale of Scrips due to the holders of unexercised Rights, if any, will be announced after completion of the Scrips Offering via a press release, which is expected to be issued on or around 15 March 2011.

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The payment of the subscriptions with Rights and Scrips is expected to take place on or around 18 March 2011. Delivery of the new Shares and VVPR Strips will take place on or around 18 March 2011. The payment of the net proceeds, if any, of the sale of Scrips, as the case may be, is expected to occur as of 18 March 2011.

A prospectus has been approved by the Belgian Banking, Finance and Insurance Commission on 23 February 2011 (the "**Prospectus**") and is available in English, Dutch and French. Subject to certain restrictions, copies of the Prospectus are available without charge upon request in Belgium from BNP Paribas Fortis on 02/433.40.32 (French) and 02/433.40.31 (Dutch); from ING on 02/464.60.02 (French), 02/464.60.01 (Dutch) and 02/464.60.04 (English); and from KBC on 0800/92.020 (French) and 03/283.29.70 (Dutch). Subject to certain restrictions, the Prospectus may be accessed on the websites of BNP Paribas Fortis (www.bnpparibasfortis.be/saveandinvest (English), www.bnpparibasfortis.be/epargneretplacer (French)), www.bnpparibasfortis.be/sparenenbeleggen (Dutch)), ING (www.ing.be) and KBC (www.kbc.be, www.kbcsecurities.be or www.cbc.be), as well as on the website of Nyrstar (www.nyrstar.com). Moreover and subject to the same restrictions, copies of the Prospectus are available, without charge, at Zinkstraat 1, B-2490 Balen, Belgium, telephone number: +32(14)44.95.00.

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About Nyrstar

The partner of choice in essential resources for the development of a changing world. Nyrstar is a leading global multi-metals' business, producing significant quantities of essential resources - zinc and lead as well as other metals such as silver, gold and copper. Nyrstar is listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels under the symbol NYR. For further information visit the Nyrstar website, www.nyrstar.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This announcement shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the securities referred to herein, in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration, exemption from registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

This announcement is not for release, directly or indirectly, in the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Japan or any other jurisdiction where to do so would be unlawful. The securities referred to herein have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time (the "U.S. Securities Act"), and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to U.S. persons (as such term is defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act) unless the securities are registered under the U.S. Securities Act, or an exemption from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act is available. Nyrstar has not registered, and does not intend to register, any portion of the Offering in the United States, and does not intend to conduct a public offering of securities in the United States.

In the European Economic Area, other than Belgium, this announcement is only addressed to and is only directed at qualified investors within the meaning of Directive 2003/71/EC (together with any applicable implementing measures in any Member State, the "Prospectus Directive").

This announcement is being distributed only to, and is directed only at (a) persons outside the United Kingdom, (b) persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended from time to time (the "Order"), and (c) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). The securities referred to herein are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such securities will be engaged in only with relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this communication or any of its contents.

No announcement or information regarding the capital increase by Nyrstar with Rights, Scrips or Shares in Nyrstar may be disseminated to the public in jurisdictions other than Belgium where a prior registration or approval is required for such purpose. No steps have been taken, or will be taken, for the offering of Rights, Scrips or Shares in any jurisdiction outside of Belgium where such steps would be required. The issue, exercise or sale of Rights, Scrips or Shares, and the subscription for or purchase of Rights, Scrips or Shares, are subject to special legal or statutory

restrictions in certain jurisdictions. Nyrstar is not liable if these restrictions are not complied with by any person.

Investors may not accept an offer of securities referred to herein, nor acquire such securities, unless on the basis of information contained in the relevant prospectus or offering document that has been, is or will be published or disseminated by Nyrstar. This announcement cannot be used as basis for any investment agreement or decision.