

**WEEKLY  
COMMENT**

**TRADING · EQUITY ADVISORY**

27 SEPTEMBER 2017

**Bouygues (Advisory, PT EUR 44):** At the advisory, we continue to favour Bouygues over Vinci given the possible upside on estimates. Bouygues has recently reported strong figures and ticked all the boxes. Our buy case relies on consensus upgrades as construction's margins keep improving and consensus' estimates remain too low over time. Also, there is upside potential to improve cash return and Telecom remains solid and visible. On top of it, the deal between Alstom and Siemens has been confirmed. It's a bit the cherry on the cake but Bouygues owns 28.3% of Alstom. The proposed Alstom-Siemens Mobility merger could unlock EUR 13 per share value for Alstom (EUR 4.1 from synergies, EUR 4.9 from multiple expansion and EUR 4 paid as a special dividend), which implies a c40% upside from yesterdays close so possibly a 6-7% positive impact on Bouygues' share price.

In the same sector, Vinci remains an attractive long term case with similar trends in the construction and solid cash generation but the momentum and upside is more limited on short term than Bouygues. Vinci is a cash cow but the upside on margin estimates looks rather limited on short term, as we saw during the H1 figures. Indeed, the old backlog has to be cleaned up first. Vinci trades with a 17% premium compared to its historical average and Bouygues looks more appealing for now.

➔ **Conclusion:** Buy Bouygues at current level.

**Trading Buy on KPN (RF – PT EUR 3.9):** With a decreasing revenue and a stable Ebitda for the year to come, KPN is hardly a very exciting proposal. However, with a gradual recovery in sales from 2019 and with leverage falling to below 2.5x Ebitda in 2019 and cash flow to continue to rise, we expect KPN to grow its dividend by 7/10% by year over the next 2-3 years. Therefore, KPN remains a very attractive name to tap into European Telecom, a sector about to see a structural improvement in earnings and cash generation, thanks to a lower cost structure, increased investment and M&A activity. KPN has embarked on a clear and focused strategy of concentrating on its core market (Netherlands). KPN is giving no guidance on a quarterly basis, but the market is expecting a Q3 sales and Ebitda decline of 4-5% and 5.5-6.5% (vs -3.2% and +1.5% in 2Q respectively). KPN is due to release its Q3 on 26, October. Consumer revenue will be affected by roaming and MTR cuts. KPN is guiding for flat Ebitda for the full year which more or less implies a +2.5-+3% Ebitda growth in Q4 which is fairly achievable given easier comparable, and solid progress on cost cutting.

➔ **Conclusion:** Technically, the stock came back from a recent high of EUR 3.14 down to its 200day moving average of EUR 2.85. We recommend to buy at current level as a trading buy or to average down.

**Trading Buy on Publicis (R – PT 67):** On a recent roadshow in London, management made much of its commitment to further differentiating its offering

through digital and its capacity to win digital transformation budgets (as with the recent worldwide McDonald's deal). The group should continue to implement synergies between its core assets and Sapient. This will underpin a gradual upturn in growth, and probably at a faster rate than that of its peers. Publicis confirmed an acceleration in H2 and a performance in line with that of its peers from 2018. Relative to the market, Publicis is down -19%. Although the group has seen earnings downgrades, the bulk of this move is driven by a de-rating. At 11.6x 2018E P/E for Publicis, the group trades at all-time relative lows in terms PE relative. Finally, the current market situation and the attractive valuation may spur the interest from a M&A perspective. WPP but also Publicis could be credible targets for a potential acquirer while a straight merger is also an alternative. Natiix recently released a note where the analyst is mentioning Accenture as a clear candidate to acquire WPP or Publicis.

➔ **Conclusion:** We recommend to buy at current level.

**Facebook (RF – TP USD 195):** Last Monday, the technology sector was under selling pressure driven by sector rotation. Face Book was among the hardest hit, down more than 4% on the day. YTD stock still up a nice 41%, though.

What was the main reason?

Face Book abandoned a plan to change its stock structure that would have given CEO Mark Zuckerberg the ability to retain control of the company via the issuance of no-vote Class C stock while donating a portion of its fortune to a charitable foundation. In order to nonetheless finance its philanthropy fund, Mr Zuckerberg decided to change the speed at which he is reducing its FB share: he now plans to sell 35-75 mn shares over 18 months or 18% of his shares valued at ~USD 6-13 bn, vs an earlier plan to sell or gift no more than USD 1 bn of stock each year for the next three years.

Our take: Even though the shares ownership reduction may be interpreted as a sign of fair valuation, we don't share this view and would use current share price weakness as a buying opportunity as the fundamentals didn't really change. The shares are trading below its 2-year average on both P/E (26x) and EV/Ebitda (15x), which we find compelling vs the expected sales and EPS 3Y CAGR of 34% and 39%, respectively.

➔ **Conclusion:** As a quick reminder, we like Face Book for 2 simple reasons: 1. Face Book is the best way to play two dynamic changes underway in internet – the transition of advertising dollars towards mobile & digital video; 2. Instagram is in the early stages of monetisation, on top of the long-term optionality to also monetise the Messenger and WhatsApp platforms (the latter two platforms have more than 1 bn monthly users).

**Givaudan (R - PT 2090):** stock price has had a strong run of late, up 13% since the July low, reaching a new all-time high at 2130. It is up 25% since February when it traded close to CHF 1700 (outperforming the SMI Index by 15% over the past 6 months). Few reason for the rise 1) expectations of accelerated growth rate in H2, 2) market flows out of Luxury, 3) solid message on the savings front during its August Conference, 4) a couple of broker upgrades, notably last week Vontobel from Hold to Buy. Overall EPS revisions have hardly moved over 6 months and this explains a fast and considerable multiple expansion over that period. Today, the stock stands on a P/E'18 of >25x or an EV/Ebitda of close to 18x (vs 21.6x and 15x resp. for Nestlé).

Although we continue to see resilience in growth, margins and returns for the Flavor & Frangrance sector, we reckon further upside looks limited in the short-term. I wish to highlight here that competitor Symrise recently mentioned pricing pressure from big staple customers (those account for approx. 50% of GIVN's top-line); there is limited pricing power despite oligopolistic market structure, while consumer concentration (M&A among Staples) is naturally leading to tough price environment. Conclusion: take some profit and either switch into Nestlé or Mondelez in the US. We met the UBS Chemical analyst yesterday in our office in Lancy and we took the opportunity to ask about Givaudan obviously. They have a Hold rating on the name and PT of CHF 1870. The UBS analyst shared our view the price overshot recently and he sees the fair value range between CHF 1800-2000. He also pointed to the tougher price environment.

**Nestlé (R – PT 95) – 2020 targets :** The group presented yesterday the 2020 targets of mid-single-digit organic sales growth and trading operating margin at 17.5-18.5% vs 16% in FY'16. The CEO stated that more aggressive margin improvement would curb the growth, therefore under current circumstances, investors should not expect more margin expansion in 2020. Instead, the company wants to achieve a balance between growth, margin and capital efficiency. The company confirmed its focus on Food & Beverage categories with additional opportunities in consumer health. The company's portfolio will be adjusted. The products under portfolio review stand for ca. 10% of sales or CHF 9 bn. Growth opportunities stem from emerging markets where margins are superior to these in developed markets and, from product innovation. Four categories are the pillars: coffee, pet care, water and nutrition. Skin health contributed negatively so far and, it is under restructuring.

The participation in l'Oréal remains unchanged.

The sentiment after the meeting was very good. There is a clear change in the communication style, the commitment is more tangible and targets quite ambitious. We like the evolution - Nestlé is no more the sleeping beauty. We expect the M&A activity and are reassured by the CEO's comments that it cannot have negative impact on returns.

➔ **Conclusion:** Nestlé remains a valuable core holding with the upside option. Buy.

## FINANCIAL RATING

The financial rating aims to indicate a stock's 12- to 18-month expected performance compared to its reference sectoral universe. It is the result of an analytical process founded first on the company's fundamentals, and then integrating the valuation considerations, and the momentum. It is expressed in the following way:

- Research List (R): We expect the share to show a 12- to 18-month performance that is superior to its reference sectoral universe.
- Research List – Focus (RF): Designates the analyst's most promising share, again, with a 12- to 18-month outlook.
- Supplementary Swiss List (SSL): Designates the additional list which includes Swiss stocks that are covered, but not recommended, within the universe.
- Not Rated (NR): The value is not among our favourites within our reference sectoral universe.

In parallel, for those values rated 'R' or 'RF', we publish a 12-month price target.

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