

## Press Release

# Bakker Barendrecht expands with a state-of-the-art centre for fresh fruit and vegetables

Ridderkerk, The Netherlands, 31 January 2025

**Bakker Barendrecht, a Greenyard company, starts construction this week on a new centre for fresh fruit and vegetables in Ridderkerk, The Netherlands. The state-of-the-art building will apply the latest technological innovations for fresh fruit and vegetables in warehousing, packing and ripening. Including the use of mechanisation in warehousing and meal-kit production, and renewed production lines for specialist fruit categories such as grapes, citrus and soft fruits. The site will also have the largest ripening centre in Europe with more than 150 ripening cells. This puts Bakker, as a *food & tech* company, at the forefront of product specialisation and process innovation. Supplying the best quality tasty and healthy fruit and vegetables to its strategic partners Albert Heijn, Delhaize, Albert and Koninklijke Vezet.**

The new fresh food centre will be located next to the existing Laurierweg site and will cover an area of no less than 55 600 square metres. It will be built according to BREEAM Excellent certification, meeting the latest, very high sustainability requirements. This includes the choice of materials, energy efficiency and a good indoor climate. Bakker will occupy the new site in phases as from mid-2026.

### Strategic partnership, innovation and quality

Maarten van Hamburg, Managing Director Bakker division: *"Bakker Barendrecht has been working closely with Albert Heijn as a strategic partner for 65 years. Bakker also has a long-standing strategic partnership with Delhaize in Belgium and Albert in the Czech Republic. Through these long-term partnerships with our customers and our growers, we deliver the best quality fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 10 million consumers every day. With the construction of the new fresh food centre at Dutch Fresh Port in Ridderkerk, we are investing in innovation, quality, sustainability and efficiency, and can respond even better to the growing demand for tasty and healthy fruit and vegetables. In this way, together we are making an impact on tomorrow's food."*

Jan Willem Balk, Sourcing Director at Albert Heijn: *"From our mission 'Together we make eating better the easy choice. For everyone.' Albert Heijn aims to contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and social society. By continuing to invest in sustainability and quality, we can continuously offer our customers the best and tastiest products. The construction of the new centre of Bakker Barendrecht enables us, as a strategic partner, to better respond to the growing customer demand for delicious, fresh, and healthy fruits and vegetables."*

### Our people

The well-being of our people is key and this is also included in the construction of our new fresh food centre with maximum attention to a healthy, safe and enjoyable working environment. The ambition for the new location is to achieve WELL Platinum certification. This underlines Bakker's aim to distinguish itself as the best employer in the region.

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**About Bakker**

Bakker Barendrecht, a Greenyard company, is one of the largest international fruit and vegetable companies in the Netherlands. Bakker is a strategic partner of Albert Heijn (Netherlands), Delhaize (Belgium) and Albert (Czech Republic). Every day we ensure the best quality delicious and healthy fruit and vegetables at our partners' stores and delivery vans. We connect the best fruit and vegetable specialists in our network so that we have an impact on tomorrow's food. Together, we ensure a healthy future for this and the next generation. Our activities include sourcing, logistics services (including warehousing, packaging, ripening, transport) and knowledge centre. Bakker has branches in Ridderkerk (Netherlands), in Boom (Belgium) and in Divisov (Czech Republic).

[www.bakkerbarendrecht.nl](http://www.bakkerbarendrecht.nl)

**About Greenyard**

**Greenyard (Euronext Brussels: GREEN)** is a global market leader in fresh, frozen and prepared fruit and vegetables, flowers and plants. Counting Europe's leading retailers amongst its customer base, Greenyard offers efficient and sustainable solutions to customers and suppliers through best-in-class products, market leading innovation, operational excellence and outstanding service.

Its vision is to make lives healthier by helping people enjoy fruit and vegetables at any moment, easy, fast and pleasurable, while fostering nature. With around 8 600 employees operating in 21 countries worldwide, Greenyard identifies its people, and customer and supplier relationships, as the key assets which enable it to deliver goods and services worth around € 5,1 billion per annum.

[www.greenyard.group](http://www.greenyard.group)