Claims

1. Tapping assembly for a beverage, comprising container comprising a first and second container, wherein the first container has a neck portion and the second container is suspended in the first container, from the neck portion thereof, wherein a neck region of the container is provided with at least one opening in a side wall thereof, preferably in a neck region of the first container, opening into a space between the first and second containers, wherein the assembly further comprises a connecting device, connected or connectable to the neck portion, wherein the connecting device comprises at least one connecting element for connecting to the at least one opening, wherein the connecting element is connected to a source of pressurised gas.

2. Tapping assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and second container have a body portion, wherein the first and second body are gas tightly connected to each other at the neck region, at a side of the at least one opening opposite the body portions.

3. Tapping assembly according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first container is more rigid than the second container, at least with respect to body forming portions thereof, whereas the at least one opening opens into said space in a substantially radial direction, perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the neck region, and wherein the connecting element connects to said at least one opening in substantially the same radial direction, and wherein preferably the connecting element is movable relative to the opening, preferably in said substantially radial direction, between a release position spaced apart from the opening and a connecting position gastight connecting to said opening.

4. Tapping assembly according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the neck region of the first container is provided with at least one

first coupling element and the connecting device is provided with at least one complementary second coupling element, such that the connecting device is or can be coupled to the neck region, such that the said at least one connecting element is or becomes connected to the at least one opening.

5. Tapping assembly according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the connecting device comprises a first and second part, moveable relative to each other, such that in a first relative position of the parts the connecting element is in a retracted position and in a second relative position of the parts the connecting element is in an extended position, wherein the connecting device comprises a mechanism configured such that the movement of the connecting element between the retracted and the extended positions and vice versa is enforced by the relative movement of the parts through said mechanism, preferably an at least partly rotating mechanism.

6. Tapping assembly according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the connecting device comprises an overpressure release connector, in a connecting line for the source of pressurised gas or for connecting to the first opening or to a second opening provided in said neck region of the container, wherein preferably the first and such second opening are positioned radially opposite each other.

7. Tapping assembly according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the containers are closed off at the neck region to each other and/or by a closure, comprising a valve, wherein the connecting device comprises a connector in an opening positioned over the valve when the connecting device is connected to the neck region, such that when the connector is placed in said opening the connector opens the valve.

8. Tapping assembly according to claim 7, wherein the connector is provided with an opening in and/or through which a dispense line extends, which at one end is connected to a dispense adaptor for connecting to and opening the valve, wherein the opposite end of the dispense line can be

provided with a valve, especially an in-line valve, wherein the dispense line and the dispense adapter are disposable.

9. Tapping assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ~~Connecting~~ connecting device is configured to ~~for~~ connect~~ing~~ a dispense line and a gas line to the ~~a bag-in-container type of~~ container, wherein the connecting device comprise~~s~~ ~~ing~~ a first part and a second part, movably connected to said first part, wherein at least one of the first and/or second part is provided with a coupling opening with coupling elements for connecting the device to ~~a part~~the neck region of ~~a bag-in-container type~~the container extending inside said coupling opening, wherein the ~~connecting device is further provided with~~ at least one connecting element~~,~~ is movable between an extended position in which the connecting element extends at least partly inside said coupling opening and a retracted position in which the connecting element extends less or not into said coupling opening, the connecting device further comprising a mechanism for moving the at least one connecting element between the extended position and the retracted position by relative movement of the first and second parts.

10. Tapping assembly ~~Connecting device~~ according to claim 9, wherein the coupling opening extends through the connecting device, wherein a connector is releasably~~releasable~~ provided in one end of the coupling opening, wherein:

- the connector comprises a coupler for opening a valve of a container to which the connecting device is connected and a tapping line extending from said connector; or
- the connector comprises an opening in and/or through which a dispense line extends, which at one end is connected to a dispense adaptor for connecting to and opening the valve of ~~a~~ the container to which the connecting device is connected;

wherein the opposite end of the dispense line can be provided with a valve, especially an in-line valve, wherein the dispense line and the dispense adapter are disposable.

11. Tapping assembly ~~Connecting device~~ according to claim 9 or 10, wherein a gas inlet line is coupled to the at least one connecting element, for introducing gas under pressure into the space between ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first containers of ~~a bag-in-container type~~the container to which the connecting device is connected.

12. Tapping assembly ~~Connecting device~~ according to any one of claims 9 - 11, wherein the connecting device further comprises an overpressure release device, for coupling to at least a second opening in a neck region of the ~~a bag-in-container type~~ container to which the connecting device is connected.

13. Tapping assembly ~~Connecting device~~ according to any one of claims 9 - 12, wherein the first and second part are rotatable relative to each other around an axis of the coupling opening, wherein the said relative rotation of the parts closes off said coupling elements of the coupling device, such that complementary coupling elements of ~~a~~ the container to which the connecting device is coupled are locked within said coupling elements of the connecting device and simultaneously forces the at least one connecting element to the extended position.

14. Tapping assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ~~Container~~ container is of a bag-in-container type, and ~~wherein a neck region of the container, preferably of an outer container thereof is provided with at least one opening extending substantially radially there through, into a space between the outer container and an inner container adjacent thereto,~~ wherein the neck region is provided with coupling elements, preferably at opposite sides of said at least one opening, seen in circumferential direction, for coupling of ~~a~~ the connecting device thereto.

15. Tapping assembly~~Container~~ according to claim 14, wherein the container is manufactured by blow moulding from at least an inner and an outer plastic preform, wherein the inner and outer preform are preferably integrally blow moulded to form ~~a~~ the bag-in-container type container, such that the outer preform forms at least part of the ~~outer~~ first container and the inner preform forms at least part of the bag or ~~inner~~ second container, and wherein a closure ring is mounted on the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first container, at least closing off ~~a~~ the space between said ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first container into which space said at least one opening opens.

16. Tapping assembly ~~Container~~ according to claim 15, wherein the ~~outer~~ first container and ~~inner~~ second container have first and second neck regions, wherein the ring is mounted to the free ends of the first and second neck regions, preferably by welding.

17. Tapping assembly~~Container~~ according to any one of claims 14 - 16, wherein the bag is suspended by a neck region of the bag in the neck region of the ~~outer~~ first container, wherein the neck regions both have a free end opposite a body portion of the container, wherein a closure ring is connected to the free edges of the neck regions of the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first container, preferably by welding, wherein the free edge of the neck region of the ~~inner~~ second container lies at a level closer to the body portion than the free edge of the neck region of the ~~outer~~ first container, such that the ring extends at least partly into the neck region of the ~~outer~~ first container, and wherein the at least one opening in the neck region is preferably positioned at a level between the free edges of the neck regions of the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first containers.

18. Tapping assembly~~Container~~ according to any one of claims 14 - 17, wherein:

- the ~~inner~~ second container has a free edge opposite a body portion of the container, which free edge is provided with an annular groove open to

the side opposite the body portion, and wherein a ring is mounted to the free edge, having a skirt extending into said groove and/or

- the ~~inner~~ second container is provided at the neck region with an outward facing flange, which has an edge positioned close to or in abutment with an inner surface of the ~~outer~~ first container above the at least one opening, substantially closing off the space between the neck regions of the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first container, for preventing debris from entering the space between the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first container, especially during mounting of a closure ring to the second~~inner~~ and/or ~~outer~~ first container.

19. Tapping assembly~~Container~~ according to any one of claims 15 - 18, wherein the ring is mounted to the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ first containers by spin welding.

20. Tapping assembly ~~Container~~ according to any one of claims 15 - 19, wherein the ring is provided with an opening, opening into the bag or ~~inner~~ second container, which opening is closed by a valve, preferably an aerosol type valve, and/or a valve mounted to the ring by clinching.

21. Tapping assembly ~~Container~~ according to any one of claims 15 - 20, wherein the ring is provided with at least one wall circumferential wall part, preferably extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the container or at least of the neck regions thereof, wherein teeth are provided on said wall part for engaging a spin welding tool.

22. Set of preforms specifically configured for forming a container for use in an assembly according to any one of claims 14 - 21.

23. Method for forming a container~~, especially according to any one of claims 14 – 21 or~~ for use in an assembly according to any one of claims 1 – 8~~,~~ or 14-21, wherein a bag in container is blow moulded integrally from at least two super positioned preforms or an integral, multilayer preform, such that ~~an~~ the ~~outer~~ first container and ~~an~~ the ~~inner~~ second container or bag are formed, wherein prior to or after blow moulding the container a closure ring

is connected to, preferably welded to, more preferably spin welded, onto the ~~inner~~ second and/or ~~outer~~ first container, closing off ~~a~~ the space between the ~~inner~~ second and ~~outer~~ inner containers, and wherein at least one opening is provided in a peripheral wall of ~~a~~ the neck region of the ~~outer~~ first container, opening into said space, for introducing gas under pressure into said space and compressing the ~~inner~~ second container within the ~~outer~~ first container, wherein the second~~inner~~ container is filled with beverage and a valve is mounted in or on an opening in said ring, opening into said ~~inner~~ second container.

24. Method according to claim 23, wherein the ring is welded, preferably spin welded onto the container prior to filling the container and the valve is mounted to the ring after filling the container with beverage.

25. Air connecting unit specifically configured for use in a tapping assembly of any one of claims 1 - ~~8, in a connecting device of any one of claims 9 – 13, or with a container according to any one of claims 14 –~~ 21.