

## PRESS RELEASE

### CORPORATE EXPRESS CONFIRMS ITS REJECTION OF STAPLES' REPEATED PROPOSAL

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 18 March 2008** - Corporate Express NV notes Staples' press release today in which it repeats its unsolicited proposal, first announced on 19 February, to acquire Corporate Express for EUR 7.25 per share.

As stated in Corporate Express' press release of 19 February, Corporate Express is of the opinion that Staples' proposed offer price significantly undervalues the company and fails to reflect Corporate Express' prospects. Corporate Express does not believe Staples' proposal is in the best interests of its shareholders and other stakeholders. The company therefore rejects the proposal and reiterates its commitment to pursuing its declared strategy.

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#### Note to the editor

Corporate Express is one of the world's leading suppliers of office products to businesses and institutions. The Company has a widespread global proprietary distribution network spanning North America, Europe and Australia, with approximately 18,000 employees working from more than 350 locations in 21 countries. In 2007 the Company generated sales of EUR 5.6 billion. On October 1, 2007, the new management of Corporate Express announced the outcome of a strategic review designed to fully unlock the potential of the Group and its valuable international market positions, create growth and improve shareholder value. While the Company is aware of current economic conditions, it is confident that it is on track towards achieving its targets of an average annual organic sales growth of at least 6% for its Global Office Products business for the period 2008-2010. The Company expects to generate EBITDA margins of at least 7% from Global Office Products, including overhead costs.

#### For more information

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#### Safe Harbour Statement

*Statements included in this press release, which are not historical facts are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbour provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements are made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future events impacting Corporate Express and therefore involve a number of uncertainties and risks, including, but not limited to industry conditions, changes in product supply, pricing and customer demand, competition, risks in integrating new businesses, currency fluctuations, and the other risks described from time to time in the Company's filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 14, 2008. As a result, the actual results of operations or financial conditions of the Company could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. Shareholders and other readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. The Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements.*