

PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Wednesday 7 May 2008

FOCUSED BUSINESS EXPECTED TO OUTPERFORM MARKET Building blocks to support Corporate Express growth targets

- **Confirmation that Corporate Express is:**
 - on track to execute its strategic plan
 - already delivering clear improvements
 - in a robust position to outperform its markets
- **2008 outlook: Sales¹ expected to be €5.7 to €5.8 billion and EBITDA margin before special items between 5.6% and 6.0%**
- **For Global Office Products targets are reaffirmed: average annual organic sales growth of 6% for 2008-2010 leading to EBITDA-margin of at least 7%**

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 7 May 2008 - Corporate Express NV, one of the world's leading suppliers of office products, today provided additional disclosure that underpins its organic sales growth target for the years 2008-2010 and the EBITDA margin target.

Peter Ventress, CEO of Corporate Express: "Today we're providing additional disclosure that underpins our expectations for the coming years and lays out the future financial benefits of our strategic plan. We are full of confidence that our actions and strategic priorities put us in a robust position to outperform our market. The unsolicited proposal of Staples significantly fails to reflect Corporate Express' prospects, its valuable customer base and its excellent market positions.

We are encouraged by the continued performance of our business as evidenced by our first quarter results and the continued growth in April. Our 2008 guidance and our update for the future demonstrate clearly the confidence we have in the strength and potential of our strategic initiatives, which are already delivering.

The latest information from our strategic plan which we are providing today supports our organic sales and margin targets. There is still a lot to do, but we are well on track and expect our shareholders will recognise and benefit from the strategy we are energetically pursuing."

2008 guidance

For 2008 Corporate Express expects sales¹ of around €5.7 to €5.8 billion, resulting in an EBITDA margin, before special items, between 5.6% and 6.0%.

2008-2010 financial targets

In October 2007, as part of Corporate Express' strategic review, clear 2008-2010 targets were set for organic sales growth and EBITDA margin. The company expects its Global Office Products businesses to grow its organic sales on average by 6% in 2008-2010, with its business model supporting an EBITDA margin of at least 7% including overhead.

Achieving our 2008-2010 growth targets is taking our Group sales¹, including all other activities, to around €6.8 billion in 2011 and Group EBITDA to around €475 million. This includes sales¹ for North America of US\$ 5.1 billion, an EBITDA margin of 7.0% and an EBITDA of around US\$ 355 million. For Europe, we expect sales¹ of €1.8 billion and an EBITDA margin of 7.1% in 2011 and an EBITDA of around €127 million.

¹ At constant rates US\$/€ = 1.48

Today Corporate Express also released its Q1 2008 results, which should be read in conjunction with this announcement.

Press Conference & Analyst & Investor Meeting

A **press conference** will be held in the Mövenpick Hotel, Piet Heinkade 11 in Amsterdam, starting at 10:00 CET at 7 May 2008.

An **analyst & investor meeting** will start at 12:00 CET. This meeting will be broadcast live via a video webcast. The webcast can be accessed via www.cexpgroup.com > Investor Relations section > Presentations. The presentation is available on in the same section.

It is also possible to follow the analyst & investor meeting via a simultaneous conference call. To get access please dial +31 (0)20 707 55 09 or +44 (0)20 78 06 19 51 (pass code 8922344).

A 48h replay is available by dialing: +31 (0)20 713 27 91 or +44 (0)20 78 06 19 70 (pass code 8922344#).

For more information

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Note to editors

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.

Financial calendar

Publication second quarter results 2008:

Wednesday 6 August 2008

Publication third quarter results 2008:

Wednesday 5 November 2008

Publication fourth quarter results 2008:

Tuesday 10 February 2009

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.