PRESS RELEASE

Corporate Express NV

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CORPORATE EXPRESS CONFIRMS RECEIPT OF UNSOLICITED PUBLIC OFFER

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 19 May 2008 - Corporate Express NV, one of the world's leading suppliers of office products, notes that an unsolicited public offer was launched today by Staples, Inc to acquire Corporate Express for € 8.00 per share.

Corporate Express is of the opinion that Staples' offer price still significantly undervalues the company and fails to reflect the company's prospects.

The Company will make a further announcement in due course.

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 € 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

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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.