



PRESS RELEASE

March 8<sup>th</sup> 2010

## UN Global Compact now established in Belgium

**After a successful launch event headed by current Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme in October, the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Compact Network in Belgium (UNGCNB) was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2010, the year in which the UN Global Compact celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

*“Let’s combine the power of markets with the authority of universal values, and the creative power of the entrepreneur with the needs of the left-behind and future generations”* this is how Kofi Annan UN Secretary General summed up the idea of the UN Global Compact in 2000.

The UN Global Compact is the largest corporate responsibility initiative in the world – with 7,700 signatories based in more than 135 countries, and Local Networks existing or emerging in 90 countries.

The General Assembly of the Belgian Network, marked the effective set up of the Local Network as a non-for-profit organization and the election of a Steering Committee including KBC Group, Efico, Ubeon, Rosy Blue and Junior Chamber International Belgium with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The UNGCNB incorporates Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices based on the 4 pillars: Human Rights, Labour, Environment, Anti-Corruption to encourage companies to do business with the utmost respect for responsible environmental practices, universal principles surrounding human rights and progressive workplace standards, all with uncompromising integrity. Iris Van der Veken, Rosy Blue and newly elected Chairman, concludes: *“It is our vision to take the best practices of UN Global Compact Belgium signatory companies and feature it on the CSR global platform. Our ultimate goal is to create a benchmark in Belgium across different industries in cooperation with UN Head Office New York and other CSR organizations”*.

George Kell Executive Director of the UN Global Compact in New York: *“I am delighted to welcome the new Local Network in Belgium, situated at the heart of Europe, to the Global Compact family. There is much that Belgian businesses and other stakeholders can contribute to our mission of advancing corporate responsibility around the globe.”*

### About United Nations Global Compact:

The UN Global Compact is not a regulatory instrument, but rather a voluntary initiative that relies on public accountability, transparency and disclosure to complement regulation and to provide a space for innovation.

Launched in July 2000, the UN Global Compact is a both a policy platform and a practical framework for companies that are committed to sustainability and responsible business practices. As a leadership initiative endorsed by chief executives, it seeks to align business operations and strategies everywhere with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Through a wide spectrum of specialized workstreams, management tools, resources, and topical programs, the UN Global Compact aims to advance two complementary objectives:

- Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world
- Catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By doing so, business, as the primary agent driving globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere and contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive global economy. [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)



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