

First Annual Report of
the Netherlands Network of the UN Global Compact
As approved on November 6, 2007.

The core data of the Netherlands Network of the UN Global Compact, short Global Compact Netherlands or GC NL, are laid down in a fact sheet, that is attached to this report. It contains firstly the mission statement and action plan of GC NL, as presented during the first public conference of GC NL, on May 29, 2007, at the Corporate Centre of Unilever International in Rotterdam. The fact sheet also contains the list of Dutch signatories to the Global Compact, including the members of the Steering Group GC NL.

In January 2007 GC Netherlands came off the ground. A chairman of the Netherlands network and of its Steering Group was found and nominated - André van Heemstra, former member of the Board of Unilever International - and the mission statement and action plan developed. In 2006 many preparatory activities had taken place: one of the most important ones was the letter in April 2006 of the CEO's of ABN.Amro, Shell, TNT and Unilever, all signatories of the UN Global Compact, to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan declaring their intention to start a Netherlands local network. The letter was also inspired by contacts between these CEO's and the prime minister of the Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende who stressed the importance of business support to the goals and activities of the UN.

In October 2006 the secretariat of the Steering Group moved from ABN.Amro to the Confederation of the Netherlands Industry and Employers VNO-NCW. It was agreed between all active participants that the Netherlands Network should be as light as possible: costs should be born mostly by companies (and VNO-NCW) as contributions in kind, for example by organising and hosting the meetings of GC NL. There is no formal membership of GC NL, the Steering Group and all the activities of GC NL are open for all Dutch signatories (see also mission statement). In the Steering Group also NGO's, government and ICC are represented.

As laid down in the mission statement and action plan the first conference of GC NL took place in May 2007: it was a successful one, with about 60 participants from all relevant societal groups: next to business itself (both members and non-members) NGO's, government and academics. A report (in Dutch) on the conference is under preparation. The theme of the conference was the research report 'The relation between International Business and Poverty Reduction: the case of Unilever Indonesia', produced in 2005 by Oxfam GB, Oxfam-NOVIB, Unilever and Unilever Indonesia.

A second, more small-scale and again successful GC NL meeting was organised and hosted by KLM on October 3rd. It was a peer feedback on sustainability reports. The reports of ABN.Amro, Akzo-Nobel, Air France /

KLM and Unilever were discussed in depth in small working groups and based on that later on in a plenary meeting. These sustainability reports mostly also play a role as annual COP's of these enterprises.

In the year 2007 the number of Dutch signatories of the Global Compact steadily grew with at least one signatory a month, in fact without any specific acquisition activities other than the two meetings mentioned above. Until October 2007 27 Dutch organisations, of which 25 companies, signed the Global Compact from their Dutch head quarters of daughter organisations.

Many contacts were laid by the chairman and the secretary of GC NL with departments and with other relevant organisations. André van Heemstra talked to the Secretary of State from the Ministry of Economic Affairs responsible for CSR. Other contacts took place with amongst others the Department of Foreign Affairs, the NCP (National Contact Point) for the OECD Guidelines and NEN, the Dutch affiliate of the ISO.

The Netherlands Network of the UN Global Compact

PO Box 93002, 2509 AA The Hague, The Netherlands

Tel. 0031 070 3490 467

e-mail rutgersvdloeff@vno-ncw.nl

website www.unglobalcompact.org