



PRESS RELEASE

(according to Articles 66 and 71-*bis* of the Regulation adopted with Consob Ruling 11971/1999 and subsequent amendments)

**The merger to incorporate
Winterthur Vita, Centro Servizi Missori
and Immobiliare San Vigilio into
Aurora Assicurazioni
is officially signed**

Milan, 19 October 2004

It is hereby announced that after obtaining authorisation according to the law, the merger to incorporate Winterthur Vita S.p.A., Immobiliare San Vigilio S.p.A. and Centro Servizi Missori s.r.l. into Aurora Assicurazioni S.p.A. has officially been signed.

The merger will take effect as from 1 November 2004. The transactions of the companies incorporated will be included in the financial statements of Aurora Assicurazioni as from 1 January 2004. The fiscal effects of the merger also start as from the same date.