

PRESS RELEASE

Unipol Gruppo Finanziario presents its Sustainability Plan and Sustainability Report in Aosta

UGF's 2010-2012 Sustainability Plan and 2009 Sustainability Report were presented today at the Hotel des Etats in Aosta, in the presence of Anna Maria Merlo, Lecturer in Solidarity Economics and Management of Non-Profit-Making Businesses at the University of Valle d'Aosta, Riccardo Monzeglio, General Secretary - CISL Regionale, Davide Mattiello, Libera's contact person in Piedmont and Claudio Belletti, UGF Assicurazioni's Sales Director. The debate was coordinated by Giacomo Sado, Editor-in-Chief - RAI Valle d'Aosta. The meeting was opened by Michele Silani, Chairman of Unipol's Regional Board in Valle d'Aosta. The mayor of Aosta, Bruno Giordano, conveyed his regards.

The meeting concluded with the organisation CSV Onlus being presented with the Unipolis Foundation's 'Keys to Smiles' grant for its cultural project 'Web Radio Aosta', the aim of which is the social inclusion of young people.

In a year that is still seriously affected by the financial crisis, Unipol Gruppo Finanziario has decided to act responsibly in pursuing its business objectives, taking sustainability as its strategic long-term goal in order to balance the interests of its stakeholders. This strategy was translated into specific and detailed objectives in the 2010-2012 Sustainability Plan, which was drawn up to fit in with UGF's Business Plan for the next three years, which in turn was drawn up with the help of a large number of people working in the Group.

Sustainability was chosen because it looks to the future, to the type of development that can combine economic growth with social fairness and the wellbeing of all. For an undertaking such as Unipol that means operating with a view to the long term in order to ensure that its activity is profitable and remains viable in the long run. All this is based on 'a distinct identity' and, as it says in the Mission Statement, 'a fair relationship with all stakeholders: shareholders, customers, agents, employees and suppliers'.

Moreover, it is significant that Unipol Gruppo Finanziario should, as the new Group Chief Executive, **Carlo Cimbri**, stated, "*undertake to develop a strategy of sustainability in the current very complex and difficult economic circumstances. But it is precisely at times such as this that it is essential to understand how society has changed and make different choices in order to ensure that conditions are right for helping to build the future.*"

"The history of our Group," recalled **Pierluigi Stefanini**, Unipol's Chairman, "*shows that our commitment to compete in the market has never failed to pay close*

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attention to the social aspect of how the economy works. One of the things that has made this possible is close collaboration with the associations of small and medium enterprises, both private and cooperative, and with the unions. Today our joint efforts and the ability to innovate are more important than ever for ensuring that we emerge from the crisis on a positive note."

Unipol Gruppo Finanziario is able to face up to this challenge by calling on its values of looking ahead, responsibility and respect and on its firm social and local base, which hinges on the workplace. The workplace is where the Group can express its trust in others and in particular inspire trust in others, trust being a fundamental factor in the relationship between the undertaking on the one hand and its customers and society as a whole on the other, especially in the current economic situation. This helps the Group to interpret its customers' requirements for prevention of and protection from risks and for a safe home for their savings, using its experience, expertise and professionalism in insurance and banking to provide appropriate, reliable and innovative products and services. This is relevant in Non-Life insurance but in particular in the case of pensions, health and assistance as a supplement to public services. Thus Unipol is in favour, from both the economic and the social point of view, of a modern welfare system that is capable of tackling the new and urgent requirements of individuals, families and businesses effectively.

The Keys to Smiles

The Group also carries out cultural and community activities through its charitable foundation, Unipolis. These include 'The Keys to Smiles', a national scheme split into regions, which supports social inclusion projects for young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who are at risk of marginalisation. This year 300 voluntary organisations and social cooperatives from all over Italy each submitted a project. Each of the 20 projects selected received a grant of €5,000.

In Valle D'Aosta a smile was awarded to **CSV Onlus – Valle d'Aosta**, the non-profit-making organisation that runs the only voluntary services centre in the region of Valle d'Aosta, promoting, supporting and providing training for voluntary associations in the region. The meeting concluded with the grant being presented to the project selected, '**Web Radio Aosta**'. The aim of the project, which is in three stages and will last five months, is to run workshops to produce a radio programme with interviews and discussions, including editing and uploading onto the website. It will provide the children with training on the technical aspects of uploading the programme and improve their knowledge of information technology (www.csv.vda.it).

The full version of Unipol Gruppo Finanziario's 2010-2012 Sustainability Plan and its 2009 Sustainability Report are available on www.unipolgf.it.

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