

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **€1,108,000 has been sent to the President of the Region of Emilia Romagna, Vasco Errani, to help people affected by the earthquake in May 2012.**

BOLOGNA, 1 March 2013 – At today's meeting held at the Group's registered office, to which the Company's Union representatives were invited, Unipol Chairman, Pierluigi Stefanini, and Chief Executive, Carlo Cimbri, sent €1,108,000 to Vasco Errani, the President of the Region of Emilia Romagna and the Commissioner responsible for Reconstruction, to help people affected by the earthquake in May 2012.

The Unions, the Group's agents and the office of the President of the Region of Emilia Romagna have undertaken to identify the priority initiatives to which funds will be allocated, which have been collected as a result of voluntary contributions from the Group's employees and agents and from the Company itself .

The result of the funds sent today will be to broaden the scope of the initiatives the Unipol Group has set up to help the various categories of stakeholder in the region (customers, society at large, agents, member organizations, suppliers).

In line with its social-responsibility policies and desire to support the part of the country where Unipol has its origins and a significant presence, the Group has launched a scheme through which the insurance (Unipol Assicurazioni, Linear, Unisalute and Arca) and banking (Unipol Banca) sides of the business provide support for the Group's customers, and it has also sponsored social and cultural initiatives to provide more general help for those affected by the earthquake.

#### **Measures to help customers**

Unipol has set up a dedicated claims-handling task force for customers insured against earthquake risk to provide a rapid expert valuation of damage, support rescue packages and pay compensation in advance, the aim being to get businesses back on their feet as swiftly as possible and thus speed up the economic recovery.

In a number of cases Unipol has taken steps to enable customers affected by the earthquake to start working again within a very short time. For example 90,000 Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses, each weighing 39 kg, were saved from a customer's partially collapsed warehouses and prompt action was taken to enable supermarkets to reopen.

Customers have expressed particular satisfaction with both the quality of the help provided at the emergency stage and the speed of claims settlement: approximately 60% of the amounts for reported damage were assessed and paid out by the end of the year, no more than six months after the earthquake.

In MV TPL business various measures were taken to help customers: prices were frozen and the MV TPL tariff for customers most seriously affected by the earthquake was reduced by 10% for both renewals and new business. The period for delayed payment of MV TPL premiums was also extended.

As regards banking, Unipol Banca responded swiftly to applications received locally by allocating two credit lines totalling €25m in soft loans for families, financial operators and businesses affected by the earthquake and also automatically suspending payment of the instalments on 2,926 loans between 30 June and 30 November 2012.

Unipol has also made its building in Crespellano, 10 miles west of Bologna, available for business customers needing temporary premises. In addition the Group has provided three container-offices in order to ensure that the bank branches and insurance agencies in Mirandola and Finale Emilia can continue to operate.

### **Measures to help local people, employees and suppliers**

Working with Caritas, the charitable arm of the Italian Bishops' Conference, the Group has made 10 flats in Cento, some 15 miles north of Bologna, available to homeless families as well as providing several hotel rooms in Bologna for employees.

The Unipol Group has also helped its employees living in the zones affected by the earthquake, offering them both logistical support (housing or hotel accommodation) and a total of approximately 1,500 hours of paid leave of absence, which has enabled 500 employees to attend to personal and family matters.

Unipol has also sought to give preference to suppliers in the zones affected by the earthquake, which has led to a 33% increase in the number of Group suppliers, thus generating an increase in turnover in the stricken areas.

In order to create places where people could meet and share experiences in the towns and villages where they had been forced to live in tents because of the earthquake, the Unipolis Foundation was one of the organizers of 'The Enchanted Screen', which involved various films being shown in July and August across the 17 towns and villages most affected by the earthquake, named after the popular 1982 film about a travelling cinema, 'La vela incantata'.

Finally the Unipol Group sponsored two major musical events to raise funds for the victims of the earthquakes in Emilia, both of which were held in Bologna: the 'Concert



for Emilia' and the musical 'Rialziamo dalla Terra il Sole' (Let us make the Sun rise from the Earth once more).

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