

PRESS RELEASE

**Unipol Gruppo Finanziario's 2008 Social Report
presented today in Chieti**

**Reaffirmation of UGF's commitment to support the
inhabitants of Abruzzo affected by the earthquake**

UGF's Social Report was presented today in Chieti at the Chamber of Commerce in the presence of Prof. Tonio Di Battista, Professor of Public Service Assessment at the University of Chieti, and the coordinator of 'Libera' for Abruzzo, Germana Aceto. The debate, which was opened by Domenico Falcone, Chair of Unipol's Regional Council, was concluded by Luciano Colombini, UGF's Banking Deputy General Manager who, among other things, underlined the Group's firm commitment to supporting the inhabitants of Abruzzo affected by the earthquake.

It was followed by the handing over of the Unipolis Foundation 'Keys to Smiles' grant to the project selected, the 'Gentium' social inclusion association's 'Teatro ed educazione: l'identità in forma di spettacolo' project.

In a year characterised by a deep global crisis that is not only financial and economic, but also typifies the model and rules which have, to date, presided over growth and markets, Unipol Gruppo Finanziario has chosen to pursue its own business objectives according to responsible methods with a view to long-term sustainability and balance regarding the interests of its Stakeholders.

With this in mind, the process of reorganising the Group, which was completed on 1 February 2009 with the merger of Unipol and Aurora into UGF Assicurazioni, was accompanied by the drawing up of a set of corporate values and the drafting of the **Charter of Values** (which involved the direct participation of all employees and of agents' delegates) and the new **Code of Ethics**, which translates its principles into a code of conduct. The full text of both documents is included in **UGF's 2008 Social Report**.

However, the presentation of the Social Report in Abruzzo could not be considered separately from the local context, in particular the drama of the earthquake that had struck the province of L'Aquila. In this way Unipol Gruppo Finanziario also wanted to confirm its commitment to support the inhabitants of Abruzzo affected by the earthquake – which, the Deputy General Manager, Luciano Colombini, recalled, was expressed immediately after 6 April – by making a donation of €50K to the fund set up by the Italian Confederation of Trades Union, granting extensions for policy and loan payments and allocating up to €20m from UGF Banca for reconstructing property and businesses, especially in the



province of L'Aquila. Other community initiatives have been undertaken by the Group's Agents and details will be released in the next few days.

The 2008 Social Report – the second since the holding company was founded whilst the original Unipol has produced one since 1993 – is the instrument by means of which the Group reports on all its financial, social and environmental activities to its stakeholders and to the public at large. The Group reports to more than 6.5 million customers, approximately 7,000 employees, more than 2,200 agents, hundreds of suppliers and the local and national communities with which it has a close relationship. In 2008, the Added Value produced by UGF came to €1,735.8m¹, which was distributed between the various stakeholders.

The decision taken by UGF, ahead of any other operator, to refund capital to the 8,500 customers who had taken out index-linked policies with underlying **Lehman Brother** securities represents a clear and transparent policy of Corporate Social Responsibility and of protection of savers and the people most exposed to the crisis. As does the **Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Agreement** signed with the Consumer Organisations, the first and only such example for an insurance company. Corporate Social Responsibility is indeed just that: it is manifested in the business operations and the running of the business. It is even more applicable today in the face of the gravity of the crisis that Italy and the world are experiencing and which demands significant changes.

In 2008 the Group promoted a number of initiatives aimed at accident prevention and safety, both on the roads – including through the **SafeRoad action** – and in the workplace, amongst which, subscribing to the funds raised by the Unipol and Group Agents in aid of the families of the victims of the **Thyssen Krupp** tragedy.

The UGF Group confirmed its commitment through supporting '**Libera**', the Association founded by Don Luigi Ciotti, with the 'one euro per policy' campaign, which made it possible in three years to collect over €432K on behalf of the youth cooperatives that work the lands and manage the properties confiscated from organised crime in Sicily, Calabria, Puglia and now also in Campania. In 2009 one Euro will be allocated to Libera and to the projects relating to confiscated property not only for each policy but also for each new current account opened with UGF Banca.

Cultural and community activities are also developed through UGF's Unipolis Foundation. 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. More than 300 voluntary organisations and social cooperatives from all over Italy each submitted a project and 20 projects were selected to receive a grant of €5,000 each.

In Abruzzo '**Gentium**' was awarded a smile. This social inclusion association was set up in 2005 to promote dialogue and tolerance between Italians and immigrants, using various methods of integrating the latter culturally and socially. The meeting concluded with the grant being presented to the project

¹ The Added Value, which forms the link between the Consolidated Accounts and the Social Report, is an expression of the wealth produced by the Group during the financial year, being the difference between production value and costs with regard to the insurance and banking services when purchasing goods and services.



selected, '**Teatro ed educazione: l'identità in forma di spettacolo**' (Theatre and education: identity in the form of entertainment). This is a multicultural project divided into three stages over 10 months. It involves pupils in secondary schools in devising a play based on documents they have collected and performed in schools (halls, staircases and corridors). (www.gentium-aq.it)

UGF's Charter of Values, Code of Ethics and 2008 Social Report can be viewed and downloaded at www.unipolgf.it in the Social Responsibility section.

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