



Press Release  
18 January 2012

## MRW ENCOURAGES THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMPANIES TO FOSTER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

***As a pioneering initiative in Spain, last December, MRW assembled 12 of its biggest clients to talk to its executives about the future of Corporate Social Responsibility in times of crisis.***

*These meetings became opportunities to talk about and reflect on the current economic climate, and concluded with discussions about the creation of possible partnerships to work together on matters of Social Responsibility.*

*The first meetings of MRW's SR Clients Group was held with executives from Sanitas, Vodafone, 3M, ING Direct, Mapfre, Western Union, Spain Unilever, Novartis, Arbora & Ausonia, La Caixa, Bayer, Sanofi and MRW.*

**18 January, 2012** - MRW concluded 2011 holding the first meetings of the newly created Social Responsibility Clients Group, a pioneering initiative which brought together executives from the company itself and its main customers, to discuss Corporate Social Responsibility and its role in the current economic climate. The conference was attended by the heads of the SR departments of Sanitas, Vodafone, 3M, ING Direct, Mapfre and Western Union in Madrid; Unilever Spain, Novartis, Arbora & Ausonia, La Caixa, Bayer and Sanofi, in Barcelona.

In the midst of the debate that has emerged in recent months regarding the economic difficulties to continue implementing corporate social responsibility policies, the participating companies agreed that, on the contrary, it is now that the private sector faces more challenges and responsibilities. For example, support was given to the fact that companies should continue to emphasize the incorporation of Social Responsibility in the supply chain, although companies may adopt different levels of demand. Some of them shared the mechanisms used for the selection of suppliers, such as the rigorous application of ethical codes, surveys based on the size of the supplier under the Global Compact principles, and even a requirement to adhere to the United Nations Global Compact.

Internally, companies must strive to maintain their workforce and contribute by generating employment, to the extent of their possibilities. Additionally, we have seen that the crisis has served to increase social awareness of employees and other stakeholders, which is why it is important for the company's Management to support the solidarity initiatives they propose (as

some already do, by giving one working day per year to employees doing volunteer work). As part of the conclusions, it was agreed that employees and society at large expect companies to be more supportive in times of crisis, and they set themselves the challenge of directing their efforts in Social Responsibility to help in the development of the country, greatly in need today.

From the various experiences shared, the meeting also raised the possibility of establishing relationships of trust between the companies (that go beyond trade) to join forces and carry out joint projects to maximize investments, and improve the social and environmental impact.

Also within the framework of its Social Responsibility strategy, MRW has backed the creation of new channels of communication with other strategic stakeholders to the Company, employees and franchises (also with the creation of SR groups), to hear their concerns, expectations and suggestions regarding the subject, enhance participation, and generate innovative ideas that benefit social welfare.

**About MRW Group:** MRW is Spain's leading national and international express transport company. The group comprises more than 1300 franchises and operates in Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Gibraltar and Venezuela. It delivers an average of **40** million parcels a year and its annual turnover in 2010 stood at **563** million Euros. More than **10 000** people are linked to the brand. MRW Social Responsibility, innovation, emphasis on meeting demand and constant, daily improvement of the quality of the service, are all values that differentiate the brand from its competitors.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** **Laura Cortada - Head of Press Office** Tel. 932 609 800- [l.cortada@mrw.es](mailto:l.cortada@mrw.es)