

Information on the ABN AMRO contribution to the objectives of the UN Global Compact

Introduction

In 2008 ABN AMRO went through a very turbulent period. Next to the crisis in the financial sector, the bank was faced with a complete restructuring as a result of a takeover in 2007 and an emergency takeover by the Dutch government, when one of the acquiring banks was nearing a failure.

Consequently, top management attention has been largely devoted to these change processes, which means that only to a limited extent *new* initiatives related to the principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) have been launched.

Regarding initiatives, which have been taken in the past couple of years, the picture is diverse, due to the fact that the acquiring banks (Royal Bank of Scotland, Banco Santander and Fortis) have their own agendas in this respect and have taken responsibility for parts of the former ABN AMRO UNGC agenda.

In this overview we focus on the activities of the business units that originally had been acquired by Fortis and that are now owned by the Dutch government, i.e. the business unit Netherlands (BUNL) and the business unit Private Clients (BUPC).

The business unit Netherlands is in many ways the center of the bank (IT-systems, client data bases, facility management, etc). Due to the takeover and the subsequent (preparation for) segregation of parts of the bank data collection has been distorted. A comprehensive overview is therefore not available. The main activities in 2008 can be summarized as follows:

- In 2008 ABN AMRO continued implementing its environmental and social risk management policies for lending money to companies in specific sectors.
- The energy use reduction plan 2005-2008 for the BUNL aiming to reduce energy consumption by 10% has been over this period has been successfully completed by a reduction of consumption of 12%.
- A new plan has been endorsed for the 2009-2011 period. Again aiming at a further reduction of 10%.
- Also in 2008, electricity use of all units in the Netherlands was 100% green.
- ABN AMRO was again the main sponsor of the Kids' Rights organization, focusing on children's rights around the world. In December 2008 in the The Hague the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Winner arch bishop Desmond Tutu awarded Mayra Avellar Nevs from Brazil with the International Children's Peace Prize.
- BUNL participates in several schemes, one in cooperation with the Dutch government, to offer people in deprived situations in the Netherlands microfinance opportunities.
- A wide range of voluntary projects has been executed in the Netherlands.
- ABN AMRO maintains an open dialogue with NGOs. Amongst others, we have been involved in discussions on "de eerlijke bankwijzer" (the fair banking indicator), an initiative by four leading NGOs.
- We are extending the range of sustainable products. In 2008 we developed an energy-savings-related mortgage and a specific savings account to support charities.

For the business unit Private Clients an (unaudited) report on the sustainability activities has been published. Key elements are the introduction of a Sustainable Equity Model Portfolio for clients, significant attention for sustainability during our so-called World Event Series and a wide range of charity-related activities around the globe. For more information, please see the attached report.

Finally, after the completion of the segregation of ABN AMRO a new entity will emerge. In 2008, we have started high-level discussions on the role the new entity can play to promote sustainability (in line with the principles of the UNGC).