



**PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 27 January 2005

**Executive search markets**

**The Amrop Hever Group and Battalia Winston International join forces.**

The Amrop Hever Group and Battalia Winston International, two major organizations in the executive search business, have announced that they will join forces as of January 2005. The combination of their respective markets will produce a total turnover of an estimated 140 million USD based on results for fiscal 2004. This confirms the position of The Amrop Hever Group as the largest network of independent search firms in the world and, among the top ten in the world league, as a sharp competitor of the integrated global search firms. This also lays the foundation for Battalia Winston International to offer its clients a more extensive global reach and strengthens The Amrop Hever Group's presence in the USA.

“With an estimated search force of over 230 senior consultants based in 82 offices over five continents and 51 countries, The Amrop Hever Group will provide the best of both worlds to clients.” said Luis Conde, Group Chairman. “We bring our clients a truly global reach with a competitive edge of entrepreneurial drive, in-depth local expertise and a sense of superior quality ownership. With Battalia Winston International we found a long-established, highly professional partner firm with an enviable quality reputation in the USA. Headquartered in New York, BWI has offices in New York, New Jersey, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. They were founded over 40 years ago and are ranked as one of the 15 largest firms in the USA. This will provide our non-US global clients, as well as our Group, with a highly respected strategic stronghold in the US. It is a new partner with whom we can share our mission, our multicultural values and our passion for search, for quality and for trust-based client relationships. This agreement ends the most important search for us since Amrop merged with Hever in 2002. We are encouraged by the opportunities this transaction presents and are elated with this exciting and enjoyable start to the New Year.”

Commenting on this, Dale Winston, Chairwoman and CEO of Battalia Winston International said

“All of us at Battalia Winston are energized about the expansion of our global reach and joining an organization whose partners exemplify the strongest independent firms in their respective countries. This will enable us to provide our clients the same service and quality on a global basis.”

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