



8 February 2008

Compass Group PLC

AGM Statement and Interim Management Statement

Compass Group PLC is today issuing its first Interim Management Statement ahead of its Annual General Meeting to be held at 11:00a.m. today at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3EE. At this meeting shareholders will be provided with the following Interim Management Statement, on the Group's performance for the first three months of the current year.

Group

Compass has had a strong first quarter with global revenues increasing organically in line with growth levels for last year. Margins are continuing to improve and operating profit is running well ahead of last year's first quarter and marginally ahead of expectations. Cash flow conversion remains very good.

We have embedded the MAP programme deeper throughout the whole organisation and this is continuing to drive increased focus on like for like growth and cost efficiencies, resulting in improving margins. The focus on working capital management and control of capital expenditure is improving free cash flow. The Group has again delivered good quality organic growth by achieving a better balance between like for like growth and net new contract wins.

We are managing the impact of food cost inflation through rigorous application of the MAP framework – particularly in the key areas of purchasing and supply chain efficiencies; unit cost efficiencies including menu re-engineering; and client and consumer pricing.

North America

Our broad mix of clients across many sectors of the US and Canadian economy is helping to drive strong organic revenue growth in the first quarter at similar levels to last year. In particular, increased participation and healthy eating programmes have again driven like for like revenue in Chartwells, our education business. Crothall, our support services business, continues to grow as we focus on cross selling additional services to existing customers. The remote business in Canada is performing well in the year to date as a result of the increased activity in the extractive industries.

Close attention to detail is ensuring that food cost inflation is being well managed and this, combined with the positive revenue trend, is ensuring that first quarter margins and operating profits are comfortably ahead of last year.

Continental Europe

Growth in revenues in Continental Europe has been gradually increasing over the last 18 months and we have seen this trend continue in the first quarter. Spain and the Nordic region remain the drivers of the improvement. In Spain, growth in all sectors has been strong with a

good balance of new business wins and like for like growth and the Nordic region continues to benefit from the high activity in the oil and gas industry.

Good progress is being made in all aspects of MAP and this is improving margins. First quarter margins and operating profits are well ahead of last year.

UK

As anticipated, revenues and operating profit remain broadly in line with the same period last year. Performance in education, which had stabilised by the end of last year, continues to make steady progress and Restaurant Associates, our fine dining business, and B&I and Healthcare are all performing in line with last year. In-unit labour and overhead efficiency improvement plans are progressing well and food cost inflation is being well managed.

Rest of the World

Healthy organic revenue growth in the first quarter, in line with last year, has been driven by positive trends particularly in Latin America, South Africa, UAE and our remote businesses which operate throughout the region. The remote site business continues to perform well on the back of food and support services which are provided particularly to the energy and extractive industries. Margins are well ahead of last year with good progress in the geographies listed above as well as in Japan and Australia.

Brazil Acquisition

The Group is pleased to announce that it has exchanged contracts with its partner Accor SA to acquire their entire 50% stake in GRSA, the Group's 50% owned Brazilian joint venture contract catering business, for a total cash consideration of Brazilian Reals 305m (approximately £88m). The revenues for the Brazilian business (100%) for the year to 30 September 2007 were £267m, of which 50% were consolidated. Completion will be subject to a number of routine conditions.

Share Buy-Back Programme

The Group's share buy-back programme has continued. Between 1 October 2007 and 5 February 2008, the Group repurchased for cancellation 65 million ordinary shares for a total consideration of £203 million, bringing the total number of shares repurchased since the share buy-back programme began, to 304 million for a total consideration of £923 million.

Other than in relation to the acquisition of the Brazilian business and the ongoing share buy-back programme referred to above, there has been no significant change in the financial position of the Group in the period since the end of the first quarter.

Ahead of our interim results announcement on 14 May 2008, there will be a pre-close trading update issued at 7a.m. on 27 March 2008.

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Note to Editors:

Website

www.compass-group.com

Compass Group is the world's leading foodservice company. We specialise in providing food, vending and related services to our clients' premises and we generated annual revenues of around £10 billion in the year to 30 September 2007. The company operates across the following core sectors of Business and Industry (B&I), Defence, Offshore and Remote, Healthcare, Education, Sports and Leisure and Vending with an established brand portfolio. For more information visit www.compass-group.com.

This Interim Management Statement is prepared for and addressed only to the Company's shareholders as a whole and to no other person. The Company, its directors, employees, agents or advisors do not accept or assume responsibility to any other person to whom this Interim Management Statement is shown or into whose hands it may come and any such responsibility or liability is expressly disclaimed.

Certain information included in this Interim Management Statement is forward looking and involves risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward thinking statements. Factors which may cause future outcomes to differ from those foreseen in forward looking statements include, but are not limited to, general economic conditions and business conditions in Compass Group's markets; exchange rate fluctuations; customers' and clients' acceptance of its products and services; the actions of competitors; and legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments. All statements in this release are based upon information known to the Company at the date of this report. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

A copy of this release, together with all other recent announcements can be found on Compass Group's website at www.compass-group.com. Copies of the presentation given to institutional investors and analysts are also available at this site.