

F&C, ING Investment Management and Robeco join the SCGOP Initiative

The SCGOP (the Foundation for Corporate Governance Research for Pension Funds) which currently is comprised solely of pension funds, is to expand its circle of members. Not long ago it became possible for other institutional investors to join the SCGOP – and F&C, ING Investment Management and Robeco have recently decided to take advantage of this possibility. The SCGOP aims to create an even stronger platform to raise corporate governance to a higher level through expansion and further professionalisation. One of the important reasons for this expansion is the new Dutch corporate governance code (the ‘Tabaksblat Code’). The Code offers a good foundation to improve the governance of companies, and calls on Dutch institutional investors to apply an active corporate governance policy.

The decision by the SCGOP to open itself up to participation by all Dutch institutional investors means that investment institutions, asset managers and insurers will also be welcome.

The SCGOP gears its activities towards listed companies in the Netherlands and Europe. In their role as investors, participants in the organisation have responsibility for their own corporate governance policy and its implementation in respect of the capital entrusted to them.

Acting together with Robeco, F&C and ING Investment Management, the SCGOP will now go further in drafting and elaborating the expansion and professionalisation plan. To this end a joint project group has been established, which will produce a business plan for the new organisation. The plan is expected to be ready this autumn.

Rients Abma appointed as SCGOP project manager

Rients Abma will become project manager as of 1 August 2005. At present Mr Abma works at the Ministry of Finance and is greatly experienced in the area of corporate governance. The posts he has held include that of secretary to the Tabaksblat Committee, and he remains secretary to the Monitoring Committee (the ‘Frijns Committee’). Mr Abma also worked as an Economic Affairs policy officer at VNO-NCW, the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers, where one of his areas of attention was the subject of Corporate Governance. Mr Abma will become director of the new organisation at the end of 2005, succeeding Jos van Niekerk, the current director of the SCGOP.

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For further information please contact:

Director of the SCGOP: Jos van Niekerk: +31 (0) 70-3024844

e-mail: jos.van.niekerk@scgop.nl