



PRESS RELEASE

Hasgrove plc (HGV) acquires Cabinet Stewart to create Europe's leading EU Public Affairs Consultancy

Brussels, 1 February 2007 – Hasgrove, the pan European Marketing and Communications group, today announced that it has acquired leading independent EU Public Affairs consultancy, Cabinet Stewart. The acquisition complements Hasgrove's recent acquisition of the European PR and Public Affairs consultancy Interel and the planned merger of the two businesses in 2009 will create a leadership position in the fast growing market for EU Public Affairs consultancy services.

Cabinet Stewart has grown significantly since its formation in 1990 and now has EU consultancy offices in Brussels and Washington DC, servicing an impressive list of 'blue chip' multinational clients.

Cabinet Stewart Founder and Managing Director, Catherine Stewart, commented: "Joining the Hasgrove group will take Cabinet Stewart to the next level of service without losing the qualities, which have earned its reputation in the market place. Benno van der Laan, who leads our US operation, and I very much look forward to working with Interel."

The transaction and the subsequent merger is an important part of Interel's 2010 strategy. This strategy, which is being spearheaded by Fredrik Lofthagen, Interel Group CEO, aims to create a European network based around a Brussels hub that can be marketed globally. .

Commenting on the acquisition, Fredrik Lofthagen said: "I am delighted and also very excited about what we are going to be able to accomplish together. Catherine and I started these discussions almost two years ago and we both realised that the two practices were complementary both in client mix and in expertise. Catherine is a tremendous professional and her extensive experience will be of great benefit as we continue to build our Public Affairs capability in Europe."

Catherine Stewart added "I have the highest regard for Fredrik both as a business man and as a consultant and I believe the two companies will provide a winning combination in the marketplace. It will be a pleasure to work with such kindred spirits."

END



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NOTE TO EDITORS

- **Hasgrove** is the holding company of a group of multinational companies which provide communication services in public relations, public affairs, graphic design, advertising and online marketing.
- **Interel** is a leading continental European communications consultancy with offices in Antwerp, Berlin, Brussels, Paris and Prague, specialising in corporate communications, EU public affairs, Government relations, Association Management, and brand marketing communications.
- **Cabinet Stewart** is a well established and highly regarded EU Public Affairs consultancy with offices in Brussels and Washington DC.