

To the management board of Axel Springer AG

### **Our engagement**

We have audited the quantitative statements of the Sustainability Report 2007 prepared by Axel Springer AG (hereinafter: the report) for the reporting period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007. Our assurance engagement aimed to obtain reasonable assurance that the quantitative information in the report was, in all material respects, selected in accordance with the reporting principles and criteria mentioned below and is accurate.

Our auditor's report refers to the PDF version of the Sustainability Report 2007, which is available for downloading from the webpage of Axel Springer AG, and the corresponding online version of the Sustainability Report 2007 published on the webpage of Axel Springer AG on November 17, 2008.

### **Limitations of our engagement**

Our engagement did not comprise any parts of the report beyond the quantitative information of the report.

Our engagement did not include any qualitative information, quantitative or qualitative information relating to the prior year and any prospective statements or the sustainability management system.

The following parts of the report were also not part of our audit:

- Links to external Internet pages
- References to studies
- Film material
- Presentations not prepared in connection with the sustainability report
- Text previously published in any other Axel Springer medium
- Previous sustainability reports
- Job pages
- References to internal corporate websites of Axel Springer, unless these were directly relevant for performance of our engagement

### **Criteria**

We assessed the report against the Sustainable Reporting Guidelines Version 3 of the Global Reporting Initiative. We believe that these criteria are suitable for our assurance engagement.

### **Responsibility of the management board of Axel Springer AG**

The management board of Axel Springer AG is responsible for the preparation and the content of the report in compliance with the above-mentioned criteria. This responsibility includes the implementation of internal controls for the preparation of a report that is free from material misstatements, in accordance with the above criteria and based on suitable methods for gathering source data.

### **Our independence**

The Ernst & Young independence principles, which are in compliance with the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Federation of Accountants and the principles set forth in the German commercial code ["Handelsgesetzbuch"], the law regulating the profession of German public auditors ["Wirtschaftsprüferordnung"] and the German professional independence standards, apply to the firm, partners and professionals. These principles prohibit financial interests in our clients which could impair independence or give that impression. Partners and professionals are required to issue a declaration each year to confirm that they comply with the firm's principles.

## Our responsibility

Our responsibility was to issue an assurance report on the quantitative information in the report based on our audit. Our responsibility in performing our assurance activities is to the management of Axel Springer AG only and in accordance with the terms of reference agreed with them.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000. This standard requires that we comply with our professional duties and plan and perform the engagement such that it can be assessed with reasonable assurance whether, in all material respects, the quantitative information in the report has been selected in accordance with the aforementioned reporting principles and criteria and is accurate.

Within the scope of our engagement, we requested evidence on a sample basis based on risk and materiality criteria to allow us to provide reasonable assurance on the compliance of the quantitative information of the report with the reporting principles and criteria. The nature and scope of our work, including appropriate samples, was based on our professional judgment.

We have performed all the procedures deemed necessary to provide an adequate and reasonable basis for our conclusions.

The performance of our engagement mainly involved the following work:

- Assessment of the suitability of the underlying criteria and their consistent application
- Inquiries of employees concerning the sustainability strategy, sustainability principles and sustainability management of Axel Springer AG
- Assessment of the sustainability reporting system, of the data capture and processing methods as well as of the internal controls, where relevant for auditing the quantitative information in the sustainability report
- Inspection of the relevant documents and systems for gathering, analyzing and aggregating quantitative data in the reporting period as well as tests on a sample basis
- Analytical considerations at Group level, subgroup level and the level of significant reporting units with regard to analysis and aggregation of the quantitative data in the preparation of the report
- Inquiries and inspection of documents on a sample basis relating to the collection and reporting of the quantitative data during site visits

## Our conclusion

In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the quantitative information in the 2007 Sustainability Report was, in all material respects, selected in accordance with the aforementioned reporting principles and criteria and is accurate. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Berlin, November 17, 2008

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