

PRESS RELEASE

GLS publishes second sustainability report

Amsterdam, 21 January 2016. Today Europe-wide parcel service provider GLS released its second sustainability report, which is entitled “ThinkGLS. ThinkResponsible.”

The report provides information on sustainability activities at all GLS national subsidiaries and is oriented towards the international standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). During the reporting period, which covers the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years, the GLS Group further developed its corporate responsibility strategy, improved its environmental footprint in many areas and intensified its social commitment.

“Sustainability is one of our core values,” explains Rico Back, CEO of GLS. “And as the new sustainability report illustrates, we have both maintained and broadened our efforts. It’s all about accepting responsibility and striking a balance between economic, environmental and social aspects.”

Environmental achievements in times of growth

The Group’s environmental measures range from climate-friendly vehicles, IT-assisted transport planning and “green” depots through to environmental projects in all areas of the company. Despite the network expansion of 21 new depots and some 1,000 delivery vehicles, as well as an increase of almost 15 percent in parcel volume¹, GLS recorded numerous improvements, including in the following areas:

- Consumption of heating energy fell by just under 9 percent.¹
- Water consumption declined by about 23 percent.¹
- The share of environmentally friendly transport vehicles (Euro 4 standard and above) rose from around 77 percent to 84 percent. Around 44 percent fulfil the Euro 5 standard.¹
- German customers sent more than six million parcels with the climate-friendly *ThinkGreenService*² in 2014/15 – ten times more than in 2013/14.

¹ Change in the 2014/15 financial year compared to the 2012/13 financial year

² Emissions generated during transport are offset by climate protection projects.

Social responsibility: a wealth of new projects

With free transport, personal commitment and donations, GLS sites all over Europe support numerous local projects. GLS Germany, for instance, holds a volunteering day at every site. GLS Belgium sponsors the national football team and gives free match tickets to disadvantaged people; GLS Ireland transports donations on behalf of a children's charity and GLS Poland does the same for a cancer foundation.

The GLS commitment also focuses on the employees. Country-specific training and professional development, coupled with staff surveys, help maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the company's workplaces. The GLS subsidiaries work in a spirit of partnership with transport partners and their delivery drivers. This includes depot dialogues, joint events and partner programmes.

Stakeholder dialogue

The GLS sustainability report appears every two years. "By providing comprehensive and transparent information about developments at the GLS Group, we wish to encourage customers, employees, transport contractors and the general public to engage in a dialogue with us, thus intensifying our communication," points out Rico Back.

The report is available to read on the GLS website (<https://gls-group.eu/EU/en/sustainability>).

The GLS Group in Europe

GLS, General Logistics Systems B.V. (headquartered in Amsterdam), realises reliable, high-quality parcel services for over 220,000 customers in Europe, complemented by logistics and express services. "Quality leader in European parcel logistics" is GLS' guiding principle, sustainability being one of the core values. Through wholly owned and partner companies, the Group provides a network coverage of 37 European states and is globally connected via contractual agreements. 39 central transshipment points and 688 depots are at GLS' disposal. With its ground based network GLS is one of the leading parcel service providers in Europe. Over 14,000 employees handle 436 million parcels per year. Every day around 19,000 vehicles are on route for GLS. In the financial year 2014/15 GLS achieved revenues of 2.1 billion euros.