

Paris, 24 February 2010

## The Elior Group signs up to the French government's "Espoir Banlieues" programme to promote employment opportunities for young people from underprivileged areas

On 23 February 2010, the Elior Group – the third largest player in the European contracted foodservice and related services market – signed up to the “Espoir Banlieues” programme launched by the French Ministry of the Economy, Industry and Employment in May 2008. Through this commitment, Elior has undertaken to hire 685 people aged under 26 who live in underprivileged urban areas, and to take on 450 interns and 300 young people on work-study schemes. In so doing, Elior – which has already recruited 461 under-26 year olds living in areas identified by the French government in 2008 as priority urban zones – is actively contributing towards the government's policy of offering young people from these areas real opportunities to develop their skills and career prospects.

In France, Elior carries out numerous initiatives in terms of training, apprenticeships, education and providing job opportunities for disadvantaged populations. For example, through a partnership entered into in 2004 with the French Employment Agency (Pôle Emploi), and renewed in 2007, we have put in place a set of measures designed for young people from diverse backgrounds which are focused on the following three main objectives:

- **Providing information on and promoting Elior's different businesses**, by raising managers' awareness and encouraging them to help young people from diverse backgrounds to find out about the various professions available within the Group as well as Elior's corporate culture.
- **Encouraging people to learn more about the Group, particularly via internships**, by advertising placements through the Pôle Emploi in order to broaden the candidate pool to include people from underprivileged areas following higher education courses.
- **Helping young people from priority urban areas to find employment** by sending the Pôle Emploi details of job offers and the candidate profiles we are seeking.

According to Agnès Bureau Mirat, the Elior Group's Human Resources Director: *“By signing up to the “Espoir Banlieues” programme we have demonstrated our commitment to and belief in the importance of helping young people find employment, especially those from underprivileged areas. Thanks to the highly practical nature of our business, we can offer a working environment that helps these young people build up their self-confidence and realise that they really do have the ability to join a group like ours. And once they have joined us, we take steps to help them develop their skills.”*

Out of the total 4,449 employees hired by Elior under permanent contracts in 2008 42%, or 1,889 people, were under 26. Out of these 1,889 young people, a total of 461, or 25%, came from underprivileged areas covered by the “Espoir Banlieues” programme.

Agnès Bureau Mirat added: *“We are in an ideal position to promote job opportunities for young people from underprivileged areas covered by the “Espoir Banlieues” programme, as we regularly hire employees on permanent contracts, are committed to work-study placements and internships, and have set up a range of specific measures to help young people find jobs.*

Elior is currently also looking into other ways to put these commitments into practice, such as through participating in programmes set up by the associations “IMS-Entreprendre pour la Cité et l’Association” and “100 Chances, 100 Emplois”.

## **About Elior**

Founded in 1991, Elior ranks third in the European contracted foodservice and related services market, holding leading positions in Contract Catering & Facilities Management and Concession Catering & Travel Retail. In 2008/2009, the Group generated revenue of €3.56 billion. Each day, Elior’s 69,000 employees serve 2.9 million guests at 14,500 restaurants and outlets in 15 countries. Elior is active in the Business & Industry, Education, and Healthcare & Seniors sectors, as well as in travel (airports, railway stations and motorways), and leisure & culture (museums and exhibition centres). As a socially responsible enterprise, Elior signed up to the United Nations Global Compact in 2004. The Group takes special care to provide nutritionally balanced meals to guests, limit the environmental impact of its operations and purchases, and support employee integration and training. For more information please visit [www.elior.com](http://www.elior.com)

## **Press contact**

Jérôme Abribat – Head of External Communications

Tel: + 33 (0)1 40 19 47 66 Fax: + 33 (0)1 40 19 47 12

[jerome.abribat@elior.com](mailto:jerome.abribat@elior.com)