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MSI/EMB/MSE05905

2 August 2005

## Company Announcement in accordance with MFSA Listing Rule 8.6.14

Pursuant to the Company Announcement dated 27 April 2005, Middlesea Insurance p.l.c. has signed an agreement with Corporación Mapfre S.A., the leading Spanish life and non-life insurance group, and has acquired their 38.97% holding in Progress Assicurazioni S.p.A. which is an unlisted non-life insurance company registered in Italy with its Head Office in Sicily and operating in the Italian market. This acquisition is equivalent to 584,597,110 shares of a nominal value of €0.01 each, which are fully paid up.

Middlesea Insurance p.l.c. now holds 89.97% shareholding in the Italian company. Middlesea Valletta Life Assurance Co. Ltd. hold an additional 10% and the balance is held by individuals. The Authorised and Paid-up capital of Progress Assicurazioni Spa is €15,000,000.

E.M. Borg

**Company Secretary**