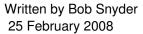
Staples Bids €2.5 billion for Corporate Express



Staples proposes to buy Corporate Express shares for €7.25 each, a premium of approximately 67%.

Corporate Express rejects the proposal, saying " this proposal significantly undervalues the company and fails to reflect Corporate Express' prospects... "

Staples makes public a letter sent to CE to provoke an official response.

Dear Corporate Express, Staples is Buying