

WESTERN UNION CO

FORM 8-K (Current report filing)

Filed 11/09/09 for the Period Ending 11/09/09

Address	12500 EAST BELFORD AVENUE ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112
Telephone	(720) 332-3361
CIK	0001365135
Symbol	WU
SIC Code	7389 - Business Services, Not Elsewhere Classified
Industry	Business Services
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 9, 2009

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-32903
(Commission
File Number)

20-4531180
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

12500 East Belford Avenue
Englewood, Colorado
(Address of principal executive offices)

80112
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (866) 405-5012

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(c) and (e)

On November 9, 2009, The Western Union Company (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing that Hikmet Ersek, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific Region, has been appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer of the Company, effective January 1, 2010. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

On November 9, 2009, Western Union Financial Services GmbH (“Western Union Austria”), a subsidiary of the Company, and Mr. Ersek entered into an Employment Contract (the “Employment Contract”) and Western Union Austria, the Company and Mr. Ersek entered into an Expatriate Letter Agreement (the “Expatriate Agreement”), which forms a part of the Employment Contract during the term of the Expatriate Agreement (the Employment Contract and the Expatriate Agreement are collectively referred to herein as the “Employment Agreement”). The Employment Agreement, as described in this Item 5.02 below, supersedes an Employment Agreement dated as of April 29, 1999 previously entered into between Western Union Austria and Mr. Ersek, as amended.

The terms of the Employment Agreement provide for, among other benefits (i) an annual base salary of EUR 600,000, subject to merit increases, (ii) eligibility to participate in the Company’s 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan and Senior Executive Annual Incentive Plan (the “Annual Incentive Plan”), (iii) eligibility to participate in retirement, health and welfare benefits programs on the same basis as similarly situated employees in Austria, as well as benefits under the Company’s expatriate assignment policy, which include (iv) relocation and housing benefits, (v) tax preparation and equalization benefits, (vi) a company car, (vii) travel expenses for Mr. Ersek and his immediate family, and (viii) an education allowance for dependent children. Also, on November 6, 2009, the Board of Directors of the Company approved for Mr. Ersek an annual long-term incentive grant value of US\$3,500,000, and an Annual Incentive Plan target award at 115% of base salary, each effective for the 2010 fiscal year.

The term of Mr. Ersek’s appointment as Chief Operating Officer commences on January 1, 2010 and, unless terminated earlier or extended pursuant to the terms of the Employment Agreement, ends on December 31, 2011 (the “Term”). The Employment Agreement provides that if Mr. Ersek is appointed to and accepts the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Company (“Chief Executive Officer”), Mr. Ersek’s appointment as Chief Operating Officer will immediately end, the Employment Agreement will be immediately terminated and Mr. Ersek will become employed in the United States by the Company or one of its United States subsidiaries. The Employment Agreement provides further that if, (i) on or before the expiration of the Term, Mr. Ersek is notified that he will not be considered as a candidate for the Chief Executive Officer position, and Mr. Ersek elects, within 30 calendar days of such notification, to terminate his employment, or (ii) during or upon the expiration of the Term, Mr. Ersek is offered the Chief Executive Officer position and declines such offer and elects, within 30 calendar days of the date he declines such offer, to terminate his employment, then in either case Mr. Ersek will be eligible to receive benefits under the Company’s Severance/Change in Control Policy (Executive Committee Level) as if Mr. Ersek’s employment terminated for an eligible reason under such policy.

The Employment Agreement also includes non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality provisions.

There is no arrangement or understanding between Mr. Ersek and any other persons pursuant to which Mr. Ersek was selected as Chief Operating Officer. There are no transactions involving Mr. Ersek requiring disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

Mr. Ersek, 49, has served as the Company’s Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific Region since December 2008. From September 2006 to December 2008, Mr. Ersek served as the Company’s Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Europe/Middle East/Africa/South Asia. Prior to September 2006, Mr. Ersek held various positions with Western Union. From March 2004 to September 2006, he was Senior Vice President, Europe/Middle East/Africa/South Asia and from October 2002 to March 2004 he was Senior Vice President, Europe/Middle East/Africa. Prior to that time, Mr. Ersek was Regional Vice President, Central and Eastern Europe from July 2001 to October 2002. Prior to joining Western Union in September 1999, Mr. Ersek was with GE Capital specializing in European payment systems and consumer finance.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d)

Exhibit
Number

Description of Exhibit

99.1

Press release dated November 9, 2009.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

Dated: November 9, 2009.

By: _____ /s/ SARAH J. KILGORE
Name: Sarah J. Kilgore
Title: Assistant Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1

Description

Press release dated November 9, 2009

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**Western Union Promotes
*Hikmet Ersek to Chief Operating Officer***

Englewood, Colo., November 9, 2009 – The Western Union Company (NYSE: WU) today announced the promotion of Hikmet Ersek to chief operating officer effective January 1, 2010. In his new role, Ersek will continue to report to Christina A. Gold, president and chief executive officer, and will have responsibility for all of Western Union’s business units around the world, as well the company’s operations and marketing functions.

“Western Union has grown considerably in scale, scope and complexity over the past few years” said Christina A. Gold. “Hikmet has proven to be an effective and resourceful leader, building highly engaged teams and consistently delivering results amid increasing diversity in our business. His new role will allow the company to focus on our drive toward innovative ways to serve our consumers and business clients every day. I am very pleased that he has agreed to take this new leadership position in service to our company and shareholders.”

Ersek is currently the executive vice president and managing director for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia Pacific region, based in Vienna. A native of Turkey, Ersek joined First Data Corporation, Western Union’s former parent, in September 1999, and held executive positions at GE Capital, and Europay / Mastercard. He holds a degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Economics in Vienna.

About Western Union

The Western Union Company (NYSE: WU) is a leader in global payment services. Together with its Vigo, Orlandi Valuta and Pago Facil branded payment services, Western Union provides consumers with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send and receive money around the world, as well as send payments and purchase money orders. Western Union, Vigo and Orlandi Valuta operate through a combined network of more than 400,000 agent locations in 200 countries and territories. In 2008, The Western Union Company completed 188 million consumer-to-consumer transactions worldwide, moving \$74 billion of principal between consumers, and 412 million consumer-to-business transactions. For more information, visit www.westernunion.com.