

PROGRAMME

16 September 2008

OPEN DAYS 2008, EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES “REGIONS AND COMPANIES: A QUESTION OF PARTNERSHIP” BRUSSELS, 8 OCTOBER 2008

11h00 Welcome: Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE

11h05 – 11h50

FIRST PANEL: HOW CAN COMPANIES HELP REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

How can companies contribute to regional development in the area of innovation, research, employment and training? What are the obstacles impeding the development of a strong entrepreneurial tissue in the regions? How can an effective use of cohesion funds remove these obstacles? How to improve the coherence of EU policies affecting regional development? Which priorities should be given to the current review of the EU budget?

Panel discussion moderated by Andy Bounds, Financial Times

- Francis Bailly, European Affairs Director, General Electric Europe
- Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Alain Juppé, former French Prime Minister and Mayor of Bordeaux
- Constanze Angela Krehl, Member of the European Parliament, PSE-Germany

(with Q&As)

11h50 – 12h30

SECOND PANEL: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, WHERE ARE WE NOW?

How can good practices of partnership between EU institutions, public authorities and businesses have a strong leverage effect on the competitiveness and attractiveness of regions? What is the role of public-private partnerships as drivers for local development?

Panel discussion moderated by Andy Bounds, Financial Times

- Gabor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest
- Henri Proglio, CEO, Veolia
- Luc Van den Brande, President of Committee of Regions

(with Q&As)

12h30 Conclusion: Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE