



JOINT PRESS RELEASE FOR 2 MARCH EBS PRESS CONFERENCE

Rudi Thomaes, the CEO of FEB and Philippe de Buck, the Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE today presented their expectations ahead 2009 European Business Summit (EBS).

The theme of the summit is “Dare and Care: sustaining Europe’s ambitions; Financing, Staffing, Greening”. This year’s EBS reflects the need for Europe to combine the achievements of the market economy with sustainability to find a way out of the current crisis.

Held at Tour & Taxis in Brussels on 26-27 March, EBS will attract 113 top speakers from business, academia and politics. The EBS Conference Director Wytze Russchen said: “*We are especially pleased to have a record number of 12 EU Commissioners present at EBS*”.

This annual two-day event has quickly become one of the most important meeting places for business leaders and decision makers in Europe. The 2009 EBS expects to welcome over 2500 participants. Several pertinent topics such as the EU response to the economic and financial crisis, the problems of brain drain and energy and climate change will be discussed thoroughly in 15 workshops by some of the most influential people in the world.

There will also be 3 plenary sessions, including the Presidents’ Debate with Ernest-Antoine Seillière, the President of BUSINESSEUROPE, José Manuel Durão Barroso, the President of the European Commission and Mirek Topolánek, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. The President of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül will also deliver a keynote speech.

BUSINESSEUROPE’s Director General Philippe de Buck said: “*Europe should dare and care! This is more necessary than ever to improve companies’ access to finance, implement the European growth and jobs strategy, resist all forms of protectionism and get out of the economic crisis.*”

Rudi Thomaes, CEO of the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium, said: “*Our initiative, the European Business Summit, was mandated years ago to enhance the standing of Belgium and Brussels as the headquarters for a great many international and European institutions. We are proud that this high-level business event can today serve as an example of how the entrepreneurial spirit can lead to the greatest of results.*”

During the summit, FEB will also present the study ‘Who dares? Who cares?’ conducted by INSEAD, the Business School for the World. This study, which focuses on the skills that Europe needs most in this time of crisis, and on the upcoming global battle for talents, will serve as a basis for discussions at the summit.

Journalists enjoy free access to the European Business Summit. Please make sure to register beforehand at www.ebsummit.eu.

For more details, please contact:

Rikard Jozwiak
Press Contact Person EBS
Mail: press@ebsummit.eu
Phone: +32472446458