Under the auspices of the Vice President of the European Commission, Günther Verheugen*

The Inter-University Centre Split/Berlin of the Freie Universität Berlin
and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Partnerschaft in der Wirtschaft
invite you
to a Conference in the House of the Federal Press Conference

"Financial Participation in the EU-27"

· Benchmarking in the Member and Candidate Countries of the EU
· ESOPs as a Vehicle for Business Succession in SMEs

Thursday, 25 October 2007, 9.00 am to 6.30 pm
Thursday, 25. October
9.00 – 9.30 am  Registration

Session 1 - European Context and German Perspectives
9.30 – 11.15 am

- Dieter Lenzen, President of the Free University Berlin / Michael Lezius, AGP
  Welcome and Opening of the Conference

- Vladimir Spidla, European Commissioner, DGV*
  "Financial Participation and European Social Policy"

- Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament
  "European Initiatives promoting Financial Participation"

- Milica Uvalic, University of Perugia
  "First Results of Benchmarking the EU-27"

- Jens Lowitzsch, Inter-Universitäres Zentrum
  "ESOPs as a Vehicle of Business Succession"

Press Conference in the Hall of the Federal Press Conference
11.00 - 12.30 am

- Günther Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Kommission*
  "Financial Participation and European Industrial Policy"

- Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, Chairwomen of the Board of the KfW*
  "Promotion of SMEs and Financial Participation"

- Kurt Beck, Prime Minister of Rheinlandpfalz*
  "Rheinlandpfalz Plus - a Model for Germany?"

- Hanspeter Georgi, Minister of Economy and Labour, Saarland
  "Regional Politics and Federal-Prospectives"

- Dietmar Hixel, Member of the DGB Federal Board
  "Enterprise Level vs. Collective Agreements?"

- Arndt Kirchhoff, Vice-President of the BDI*
  "Financial Participation from the standpoint of German Industry"

12.30 am – 1.30 pm  Lunch

Session 2 - European Interest Groups
1.30 – 3.00 pm

- Thérèse de Liedekerke, Business Europe*
  "Financial Participation and the Lisbon Agenda"

- Norbert Kluge, European Trade Union Institute
  "Participation in Decision Making and Financial Participation"

- Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead, ILO
  "The European Social Model - Eastward Enlargement vs. Welfare State"

Session 3 - National Models
3.15 – 4.45 pm

- Iraj Hashi, Staffordshire University
  "Comparative Analysis of the EU-27 and the Candidate Countries"

- Patricia Kelso, Kelso Institute / John D. Menke, Menke & Associates
  "Financial Participation – Practical Experience from the United States of America"

- Isabelle Debré, Member of the French Senate, and of the High Commission of Participation*
  "The legal framework in France"

Session 4 - Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Germany
5.00 – 6.30 pm

- Herwig Roggemann, Inter-Universitäres Zentrum
  "The Society of Owners and the Welfare State"

- Marie-Luise Dött, President of the BKU
  "Initiatives for SMEs in Germany"

- Heinrich Beyer, AGP
  "Consultancy for SMEs in Germany"

- Round Table with invited Expert Discussants
  "The Building Block Approach to Financial Participation at the European Level"

7.00 – 9.00 pm  Cocktails