

I Press Release

Brussels, 9 June 2009

Chambers from around the world meet in Portugal for EUROCHAMBRES' 12th Summer Academy

From 15 to 19 June, the city of Obidos – one hour north of Lisbon – will host a multicultural group of Chambers of Commerce on the occasion of the 12th edition of EUROCHAMBRES' Summer Academy.

EUROCHAMBRES' Academy is a professional development programme exclusively designed for Chamber managers. During five days, 40 experts from local, regional and national Chambers from 17 countries* will follow a tailor-made training programme to enhance their management skills and improve the services offered to their member businesses.

The sessions will be presented by experienced course leaders with distinctive backgrounds such as Chamber specialists in training programmes, consultants and academics. Pedro Madeira Rodrigues, Secretary General of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry – which co-organises the event – will host a welcome reception at the Portuguese Chamber in Lisbon and will participate to the Gala dinner in Obidos to hand out the certificates to all Academy participants.

EUROCHAMBRES' Academy is also a unique opportunity for participants to network and exchange best practices. As Isabelle Gueury, Director of Corporate Affairs at EUROCHAMBRES, explains: *"The Academy allows Chambers to interact, explore and learn what is done in different countries. Participants bring back home new ideas on how to improve their Chamber's services, and new contacts with fellow Chamber representatives all around the world. Both things ultimately have a very positive impact on their member businesses."*

More than 1500 managers from across Europe and beyond have participated in EUROCHAMBRES' Academy since its first edition in 1998. They now form part of a network of 'alumni' who still exchange ideas and views, search for project partners and discuss best practices.

Journalists are invited to attend the event. Interviews can be arranged with Academy participants and course leaders on latest trends in Chamber management, and on what Chambers are concretely doing to support their member businesses in the current economic crisis. Additional information and registrations can be obtained from the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (see contact details below).

* Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Finland, FYROM, Germany, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

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More information on EUROCHAMBRES' Summer Academy can be downloaded from
<http://academy.eurochambres.eu/academy.php?id=057>

Connecting **business to Europe**

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.