

PRESS RELEASE

EUROCHAMBRES and JADE co-operate to foster the entrepreneurial spirit in education and training

In the fringes of EUROCHAMBRES' Congress in Vienna (21-22 October) EUROCHAMBRES, the European Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and JADE, the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises, signed a cooperation agreement to promote the entrepreneurial education of young people.

EUROCHAMBRES' President Christoph Leitl said: *"We need to build bridges between the academic world of education and training on one side and the practical world of enterprises on the other side. The Junior Enterprises of JADE are a concrete example how to add successfully practical experience to the acquirement of theoretical skills. EUROCHAMBRES will support JADE to foster the 'learning by doing' component. All the more, as education and training is one of EUROCHAMBRES' priorities for 2005."*

JADE President Monika Oswald believes in the mutual benefits and synergies for both organisations. Ms Oswald said: *"The co-operation sets out to link JADE Confederations and Junior Enterprises with national and local Chambers of Commerce - thus laying the basis for more students to experience entrepreneurship and hopefully leading to more of them starting and then successfully leading businesses in the future."*

EUROCHAMBRES and JADE will work out joint policy papers in areas of common interest such as young entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness and organise joint conferences and seminars to promote positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship and risk taking in Europe

JADE is a student-run, pan-European network representing about 20.000 young entrepreneurs in more than 150 local non-profit organisations, called "Junior Enterprises". "Junior Enterprises" are not-for-profit entities that allow university students to add practical experience to their theoretical skills, by running professional consulting studies and managing small- to medium sized enterprises.

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EUROCHAMBRES has member organisations in **41** countries representing a network of **2,000** regional and local Chambers with over **17 million** member companies.