

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

Bundespressekonferenz
Schiffbauerdamm 40
Ecke Reinhardtstr. 55
10117 Berlin

Train: Hauptbahnhof
S-Bahn: Lehrter Bhf.
U/S Bhf. Friedrichstrasse
BUS: ...

With the support of the European Commission, the KELSO Institute and Menke & Associates.

Invitation and identity-
card must be presented
at the entrance.



Inter-University Centre Split/Berlin
at the Institute for
Eastern European Studies
of the Free University Berlin
www.intercentar.de



Financial Participation in the EU-27 is on the rise: approximately 15 % of employees in the private sector currently participate financially in the enterprise for which they work. This number is increasing.

The different forms of Financial Participation constitute a pillar of the European Social Model.

The Conference – for the first time – presents comparable empirical data from all EU-27 and the Candidate Countries – a necessary condition for the breakthrough of Financial Participation at a National as well as at a European level.

The "Building Block Approach" to Financial Participation, developed as a European Frame for sharing in enterprise profits and in capital supports this development.

The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) was developed to solve the problem of business succession in small and medium sized enterprises. It offers an alternative to a sale to Private Equity Funds while making employees owners and at the same time avoiding the "double Risk".

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 Commission***

"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-Perspectives"

Dietmar Hexel, 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"

12.30am- 1.30pm **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**