



European Commission

Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry

## Conference

### «Women-led businesses: Overcoming barriers to growth and improving access to finance »

Brussels, 21 October 2005  
Charlemagne (Room S/1)

#### **DRAFT Agenda**

##### Morning session

- 09:30 - 09:50      Opening address “The contribution of women entrepreneurs to growth and employment in Europe”, Mrs Maive Rute, Director and SME Envoy, European Commission
- 09:50 – 10:10      “Gender, Entrepreneurship and Business Finance: the relationship between banks and entrepreneurs in the UK”, Mrs Sara Carter, Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship, University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, UK)
- 10:10 – 10:20      Coffee break
- Chair:*              Mrs Alexandra Cas Granje, Director, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission
- 10:20 – 10:40      “Access to business support services, including financing”, Mrs Catherine Guy Quint, Member of the European Parliament
- 10:40 – 12:30      Presentation of selected cases of good practices:  
Mrs Miriam Arnau, FEM-UEAPME (Female Europeans of Small and Medium Enterprises)  
Mrs Frits Bresseleerts, FCEM (The worldwide network of women business owners) *(invited, to be confirmed)*  
Mrs Jan Hicks, WEETU (Women’s Employment Enterprise and Training Unit)*(invited, to be confirmed)*  
Mrs Madi Sharma, EESC (European Economic and Social Committee)  
Slovene Enterprise Fund *(to be confirmed)*  
Mrs Margarita Tchouvakhina, KfW Bankengruppe *(invited, to be confirmed)*
- 12:30 – 13:00      Debate
- 13:00                End of the morning session
- 13:00 – 14:30      Lunch

Afternoon session

<i>Chair:</i>	Mr Jean Noël Durvy, Enterprise and Industry Directorate General, European Commission
14:30 – 15:00	“The impact of Basel II on small businesses”, Mr Chris De Noose, ESBG (European Saving Banks Group)
15:00 – 15:30	“The importance of ratings”, Mrs Cindy Fökehrer, EUROCHAMBRES
15:30 – 16:00	“The reform of the accounting standards and its impact on SMEs”, Mrs Saskia Slomp, FEE (The European Federation of Accountants)
16:00 – 17:00	Debate
17:00 – 17:15	Conclusions, Mr Albrecht Mulfinger, Enterprise and Industry Directorate General, European Commission
17:30	End of the meeting

**Interpretation from FR, D, EN, I, ES to FR, D, EN, I, ES will be available**