



EUROPEAN SAVINGS BANKS GROUP

PRESS INFORMATION

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Winners of 2005 European Stock Market Training celebrate in Brussels

The European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) celebrated last Friday 31 March the winning teams of the 2005 European Stock Market Training in the beautiful surroundings of the Brussels' Concert Noble.

This European Stock Market Training event is organised on a yearly basis by savings banks in seven countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg and Spain, under the auspices of the European Savings Banks Group. It consists in the management of a virtual portfolio of securities from the Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris and Vienna stock exchanges, over a period of ten weeks (www.stockmarket-training.com). The 2005 edition of the training brought together more than 250 000 participants in 43 444 teams!

At the award-ceremony, Chris De Noose, chairman of the management committee of ESBG, stressed the importance of this pan-European initiative to improve the financial literacy of young people. "*This stock market training*", he declared, "*is a perfect illustration of the European savings banks' ability to develop cross-border projects that bring concrete benefits to the society they are active in*".

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About ESBG:

ESBG (European Savings Banks Group) is an international banking association that represents one of the largest European retail banking networks, comprising about one third of the retail banking market in Europe, with total assets of €4,716 billion (1 January 2005). It represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis the EU Institutions and generates, facilitates and manages high quality cross-border banking projects.

ESBG members are typically savings and *retail* banks or associations thereof. They are often organised in decentralised networks and offer their services throughout their *region*. ESBG members banks have been reinvesting *responsibly* in their region for many decades and they are a distinct benchmark for corporate social responsibility activities throughout Europe and the world.