



EUROPEAN SAVINGS BANKS GROUP

PRESS INFORMATION

Brussels, 27 March 2007

Winners of 2006 European Stock Market Training celebrate in Brussels, at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

The European Savings Banks Group (ESBG) celebrated last Friday 23 March the winning teams of the 2006 European Stock Market Training in the original surroundings of the Centre de la Bande Dessinée in Brussels.

This European Stock Market Training 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 2006 edition of the training brought together more than 250 000 participants in 43 500 teams!

Baron Lamfalussy, who was the patron of the Training, saluted this initiative for its positive contribution to the financial education of European youngsters. “*The staggering number of students participating to this project*”, he said “*is a great encouragement for the development of mature and informed European consumers of financial services*”. As one of the most prominent EU experts in the field of financial markets, he also particularly valued the pan-European aspect of the project.

At the award-ceremony, Chris De Noose, Chairman of the ESBG Management Committee, stressed the importance of this pan-European initiative to improve the financial literacy of young people. “*At this historical moment, when Europe celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, ESBG is very pleased to contribute to the development of the Europe of financial knowledge thanks to an ambitious cross-border project that brings together the young people that will build our Europe of the coming fifty years*”, he declared.

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ESBG

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About ESG:

ESG (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 €5,215 billion (1 January 2006). It represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis the EU Institutions and generates, facilitates and manages high quality cross-border banking projects.

ESG members are typically savings and *retail* banks or associations thereof. They are often organised in decentralised networks and offer their services throughout their *region*. ESG 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.