

Press Release, Jan 15 2009

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES CLUB CEE IN VIENNA

Over 100 participants from 10 countries shaping the future of banking in CEE

Vienna. On January 14, 2009, the British Embassy in Vienna hosted over 100 top level managers from primarily finance and banking services, from over ten Central and Eastern European countries, to launch the Financial Services Club CEE.

The speakers at the first event, discussing “the impact of the credit crisis in Central and Eastern Europe” included regional visionaries such as Friedhelm Boschert, CEO of Volksbank International; Karl Sevelda, Board Member of RZB Group; Josip Protega, Chairman of Hrvatska postanska banka; Daniel Thorniley, Senior Vice President of the Economist Group and Financial Services Club Founder and futurist Chris Skinner.

The importance of the evening was also well illustrated by the 10 member of the UK foreign relations committee present and BBC’s interest in including this meeting as part of a documentary illustrating how embassies and ambassador’s roles have changed and now support and generate business ideas.

The Financial Services Club, already established in London and Dublin as a leading service provider aims at senior executives and decision makers from primarily banks, consultancies, insurance, and technology firms, has now expanded onto Central and Eastern Europe, as the continent's most dynamic region. The CEE HQ in Vienna was initiated by Thomas Labenbacher, VP and Division Head Payment services, Raiffeisen International, who was joined by the following key individuals Lydia Goutas, Managing Partner, Lehner Executive Partners; Selma Prodanovic, CEO, Brainswork and Otto Danner. Set up as a non-profit, the FSCCEE will donate a portion of fund generated to a local regional charity.

Thomas and Lydia chairing the FSCEE here explained their involvement: “We all share an interest in the region and in shaping the future. We recognize that with inspirational leadership, know how, the proper context to successfully work together, and with the convergence of international relations with international business, the future can be quite different. That is why we have selected embassies as our sites for meetings”.

The financial services sector faces dynamic challenges every day: new legislature, new technologies, new competition and new products, making it both dynamic and unclear. The networking provided by the Financial Services Club is an excellent opportunity for first-hand knowledge and exchange of visions and ideas. The Club is based on membership and the members can attend events in the UK, Ireland and now also in Vienna. The importance of the Vienna-based banking sector in the regional CEE context has proven to be an additional asset for the success of the launch. With the high-level synergy it has created, the Financial Services Club CEE can look forward to many thriving events to come.

More information at www.fsclubcee.com



The Financial
Services Club

