

The **Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ)** and **ICEG European Center** invites you to the conference:

**Competitiveness in the New Member States: the Case of Hungary**

*Date: 18 November 2005*

**Changed Venue:** *Salle BEL 52 - European Economic and Social Committee  
99, rue Belliard, 1000 Brussels*

8.30-9.00 Registration

**9.00- 10.00 Competitiveness: a top-priority for Europe**

Welcome speech & Moderator: Dr. Péter Vadász, Vice-President of MGYOSZ, Member of ECOSOC

**Keynote speakers:**

- Joaquin ALMUNIA - Member of the European Commission
- Philippe de BUCK – Secretary general of UNICE
- Etele BARÁTH – Hungarian Minister of European Affairs

**Questions and answers**

**10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break**

**10.30 – 12.00 1<sup>st</sup> Panel: Competitiveness Challenges of the New Member States and Hungary**

Moderator: Dr. Péter Balázs, Former EC Commissioner

**Keynote speakers: ICEG European Center**

András Bakács – Pál Gáspár: The Lisbon process and the competitive advantages and disadvantages of the New Member States

Gábor Pellényi : Wage level and competitiveness of the New Member States

Magdolna Sass: Capital flows and relocation towards the New Member States

Péter Bilek – Veronika Czako: Foreign Direct Investments: Are the New Member States and South-Eastern Europe competitors?

Renáta Anna Jaksza – Pál Gáspár: The Information Society Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges for Competitiveness of New Member States

12.00 – 12.15 Short break

**12.15 – 13.30 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: Hungarian business' views on competitiveness**

**Keynote speakers :**

Dr. Péter Vadász, Vice-President of MGYOSZ, Member of ECOSOC

Dr. Ákos Niklai President of Hotel Association of Hungary

Péter Kisbenedek Chairman-CEO of Erste Bank Hungary

**Questions and Answers**

**Closing remarks:** Dr. Péter Balázs, Former EC Commissioner

**13.30-14.30 Buffet lunch and reception for the participants**

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