
PRESS RELEASE: GENEVA

25.10.12

ITC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEADS FUTURE GLOBAL 100 MEETING ON EASTERN EUROPE'S ECONOMY

Ms. Patricia Francis, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, will today co-chair a Future Global 100 (FG100) meeting in Warsaw, attended by European and international government and business leaders. The FG100 meeting, a global initiative of Platinum Circle, will focus on the future of the Eastern European economy against the backdrop of the on-going global economic crisis. Participants will also discuss and identify the way ahead for the region's markets and businesses, and how they can succeed in the global value chain.

"Growth perspectives and the competitiveness of Eastern Europe assume particular importance at a time of a fragile global economic recovery. It is more crucial than ever to find ways to reduce economic uncertainty, improve the business environment and explore means to sustainable growth", said Ms. Francis.

"The Future Global 100 Initiative provides an excellent platform to collectively design a new model for prosperity and identify ways out of the economic crisis."

In addition to Ms. Francis, the meeting in Warsaw, which marks the first entry of the FG100 Initiative into Europe, will include Mr. Stefano Arganese, CEO of DHL Freight for Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa, Mr. Slawomir Majman, President of the Board, Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, and Mr. Nuno Sereno, CFO and Board Member of Jeronimo Martins Polska S.A. Representatives from the Governments of Bangladesh, Hungary, Kuwait, Panama and Poland will also attend the meeting.

Mr Lionel Lee, Chairman of Platinum Circle, said: "Forging ahead with the expansion of the FG100 Initiative together with DHL as our strategic partner, Poland has been chosen as our first meeting location in Europe. We are witnessing strong support for the FG100 Initiative from both industry and government leaders in Europe and around the world, which reflects the desire among them to play a role in the making of the Future Global Agenda.

Platinum Circle is a leading global business group involving corporations with annual revenues exceeding US\$ 100 million, governments and inter-governmental organisations in Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, America and Europe.

ITC is the joint agency of WTO and the United Nations and is devoted to helping small and medium enterprises in developing countries become more competitive in global markets and thus to speed up sustainable economic development and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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