

## **EU and business leaders make youth employment a top priority in Europe**

Thursday, November 23, 2017 — Today, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, and the President of CSR Europe, the European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility, Etienne Davignon, are hosting the 1st European Business-Education Summit. This high-level event will look at the accomplishments of the Pact for Youth initiative and explore new ways to boost youth employment over the next years.

The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani will join the event together with 650 participants and 50 CEOs of companies committed to creating a fair culture of partnerships between businesses, education and training providers and young people in Europe, as well as representatives of National Partner Organisations, civil society organisations and national and EU policy makers.

Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility and Etienne Davignon, President of CSR Europe, said at their joint address : "The European Pact for Youth partners created over 23.000 business-education partnerships, and provided around 160.000 new quality opportunities for young people. Throughout Europe, the Pact partners also provide a critical mass of practical examples of how enterprises collaborate with schools and colleges - to the benefit of students at various stages of their education (primary, secondary, vocational or tertiary), teachers, employees and their business. By bringing key stakeholders together, the Pact acted as an incubator for new, European collaborative projects. We hope that this Pact will further inspire and support you to engage strategically in business-education partnerships. Our ambition is clear, to better equip youth for the future of work by making business-education partnerships the new norm in Europe".

Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, Chairman and CEO of SOLVAY, said: "Solvay's growth and development depends on its employees. That's why we are constantly looking for a variety of bright and young talents, ranging from apprentices to vocational schools or universities, to operators of a control room to engineers, site managers, lawyers and assistants. To bridge the gap between the skills acquired at school with those needed on the job it's important to understand and work on both sides' needs. The business-education partnerships created and encouraged through the European Pact for Youth, can facilitate this transition from school to a first job, benefitting youth, schools and companies."

The Pact, initiated in November 2015 by CSR Europe, is an appeal to all business, social partners, education and training providers and other stakeholders to develop and consolidate partnerships in support of youth employability and inclusion. The ambitious goal of the Pact was to create 10.000 quality business-education partnerships, with the shared target to establish at least 100.000 new good quality apprenticeships, traineeships or entry-level jobs. These goals were surpassed with impressive results: During the two years, 23.000 business-education partnerships were formed, and 160.000 new opportunities for youth were created impacting 5,2 million learners.

The two-year campaign for the Pact is a long-term initiative. Even as the actual project has come to an end, the Pact will continue at the national level via the implementation of the National Action Plans. Through this unique platform, leaders from businesses, civil society organisations and education, set up 24 National Action Plans and developed three policy proposals to make business-education partnerships the new norm. In this sense, a joint appeal from high-level representatives of several companies will be presented on the occasion of the Summit to European leaders.

Building upon the Pact, business and civil society leaders have developed three policy proposals to make business-education partnerships the new norm. In this sense, a joint appeal will be presented on the

occasion of the First European Business-Education Summit to European leaders to accelerate the pace of reforms to make business-education partnerships the new norm.

## Background

### About the 1st European Business-Education Summit

The European Pact for Youth will be officially concluded on 23 November 2017 at the 1st European Business-Education Summit, where its achievements will be publicly celebrated by the leaders of the Pact and the EU institutions. Discussion on the way forward will be opened. Participants will witness the results and set the way forward, especially through the roll-out of the National Action Plans, created by national partners in more than 20 European countries to adapt the Pact to their national reality.

### About the European Pact for Youth #Pact4Youth

The Pact was launched in November 2015 as a mutual engagement of EU and business leaders in close collaboration with youth to create a culture of business-education partnerships to improve the chances for young people of getting a job. The ambitious goal of the Pact was to create 10.000 quality business-education partnerships, with the shared target to establish at least 100.000 new good quality apprenticeships, traineeships or entry-level jobs. Through this unique platform, leaders from businesses, civil society organisations, and education, set up 24 National Action Plans and developed three policy proposals to make business-education partnerships the new norm.

### About the joint appeal for making business-education partnerships the new norm

Building upon the European Pact for Youth, business and civil society leaders have developed the following policy proposals:

- Making vocational education and training/apprenticeships an equal choice for youth
- Making business-education partnerships the new norm across Europe
- Mainstreaming entrepreneurship education in learning

A joint appeal from CEO's will be presented on the occasion of the 1st European Business-Education Summit to European leaders to accelerate the pace of reforms to make business-education partnerships the new norm.

### About the European Vocational Skills Week 2017

The Summit takes place during the European Vocational Skills Week. Following the success of last year's Week "Discover your Talent", the European Commission is organising the second edition. The aim of such a week is to improve the attractiveness and image of vocational education and training, to showcase excellence and quality, and raise awareness of the wide range of opportunities. This is done through a series of events and activities in Brussels and throughout Europe.

For more information

European Pact for Youth

Business Impact Map European Pact for Youth

1st European Business-Education Summit

## Vocational Skills Week

### ABOUT CSR EUROPE

CSR Europe is the leading European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility. Through its network of 48 corporate members and 42 National CSR organisations, it gathers over 10.000 companies, and acts as a platform for those businesses looking to enhance sustainable growth and positively contribute to society. In its mission to bring the sustainability agenda forward, CSR Europe goes beyond European borders and cooperates with CSR organisations in other regions across the world. CSR Europe builds on its Enterprise 2020 Initiative with the Sustainable Business Exchange which incubates multi-stakeholder initiatives that tackle the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Improving STEM skills and promoting quality business-education partnerships is a key priority for CSR Europe, as is reflected in the Pact for Youth launched in 2015.

πηγή: [csreurope.org](http://csreurope.org)

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