



Paris, 2 July 2008

Press Release

The Ministry of Higher Education and Research is organising, in partnership with the Toulouse School of Economics, a conference entitled “**Promoting rapid growth of knowledge – European strategies as regards the world economy**”, to be held in **Toulouse from 7 to 9 July 2008**.

Valérie Pécresse, Minister of Higher Education and Research, will close the conference on 9 July 2008 at 2.30 pm.

This will be the first event conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research within the scope of the French Presidency of the European Union. The colloquium aims to identify the most relevant methods to stimulate innovation in Europe and to set out the main thrust of a European strategy for the promotion of the rapid growth of Knowledge.

The congress will bring together the different players entrusted with implementing this strategy (international experts, research and development specialists, researchers, company directors, politicians), among whom:

- ✓ Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Education and Research – Germany
- ✓ Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Technology
- ✓ Cristina Garmendia Mendizabal, Minister of Science and Innovation – Spain
- ✓ Tonis Lukas, Minister of Education and Research – Estonia
- ✓ Jean Tirole, Director of Toulouse School of Economics
- ✓ Manuel Trajtenberg, National Economic Council of Israel
- ✓ Ellen de Brabander, Merial
- ✓ Jean-Charles Pomerol, Chancellor of the Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris
- ✓ Wolfgang Herrmann, Chancellor of Technische Universität München
- ✓ Andrea Cuomo, ST Microelectronics

The conference has thus given itself two main objectives:

- ✓ Detail a report on recent contributions on the topic of the knowledge economy and identify the foundations of national and European strategies for the promotion of innovation-based growth
- ✓ Develop an operational approach to policies of innovation and research at regional, national and European levels, within the context of the new European Research Area.

During these three days, five plenary working sessions are planned:

- ✓ Innovation and growth in the knowledge economy: a challenge for Europe
- ✓ New practises of innovation of companies and global networks
- ✓ Promotion of excellence in Europe: the interactions between public and private investment
- ✓ Multi-level innovation policies: contribution of the European Research Area
- ✓ Promotion of R&D and excellence in Europe: an integrated and open approach

Detailed programme and information: www.knowledge-conference-france2008.eu/

Compulsory press accreditation on the website: <http://www.eu2008.fr/>

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