

PRESS RELEASE

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18th YES Annual Summit & General Assembly Hanover, Germany, 21 November 2008

Brussels, Belgium, 3 December 2008 - YES, The European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs, the pan-European organization bringing together 16 national federations and representing up to 40,000 individual entrepreneurs, held its 18th Annual Summit & General Assembly in Hanover, Germany, on November 21st. This event took place in the charming hall of the Maritim Airport Hotel and was kindly hosted by **DIE JUNGEN UNTERNEHMER - BJU**, the German Member Federation.

This one-day gathering not only offered its participants a masterfully organised programme with an extensive number of prominent keynote speakers, but also represented a significant momentum for the life of the Confederation bringing together young leading entrepreneurs from all around Europe.

Dirk **Martin**, President of DIE JUNGEN UNTERNEHMER - BJU, and Martin **Ohneberg**, President of YES and Junge Industrie, opened the meeting with inspiring speeches on the future challenges for young entrepreneurs and handed over the floor to a number of outstanding speakers including **Dr. Philipp RÖSLER**, Member of the State Assembly, and **Stefan STRAUSS**, Regional Chairman North Rhine-Westphalia.

Special guest speaker **Jeremy RIFKIN**, Economist and Author, founder and president of the 'Foundation on Economic Trends' in Washington, gave his contribution during the special YES session addressing the topic of **“The Economy of an Oil-less World and the Vision of the Third Industrial Revolution”**. Paying tribute to new technologies, Mr. **RIFKIN** challenged young entrepreneurs through a dedicated web-based lecture explaining how meeting the climate goals, will effectively lead to the creation of thousands of new companies and of millions of jobs, giving new life to the existing SMEs, as well as redistribution of the wealth on the planet and increase in competitiveness through innovation.

A special evening was offered to participants by the invitation to the “Peppermint Papillon” on the premises of the World Exhibition EXPO 2000, which became an unforgettable complement to the programme.

“Ideas, Interaction and Innovation. Inspiring contributions and fruitful discussions. A further step forward for Young Entrepreneurs of Europe.” – concluded President Ohneberg.