

**European Business Schools/Women on Board initiative responds to “Public Consultation” and adds senior executive women, Business Schools and organizations to their ever-growing list of “Board Ready Women” in support of European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding’s call to increase Women on Boards to 30 % by 2014 and 40 % by 2020:**

*Momentum grows as initiative adds Italian Parliament, Bocconi, Fondazione Bellisario, EFMD, International Association of University Women, Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V., (German Women Lawyers Association), Geneva Group International, American Chamber of Commerce in France, and Corporate Women to group.*

07 May 2012, Brussels: The European Business Schools/Women on Boards initiative has announced today that the Italian Parliament, Bocconi University, Fondazione Bellisario, the European Federation of Management Development (EFMD), the International Association of University Women ((IAUW), Geneva Group International (GGI), the American Chamber of Commerce in France and Corporate Women have all joined together with the their initiative to support Vice President Reding’s campaign to get more women on Europe’s publicly quoted corporate boards. The European Business Schools/Women on Boards is in particular widening their efforts to identify as many Board Ready Women as possible throughout all the member states of the European Union and beyond since they firmly believe this is a global initiative and that Europe is leading the way.

In an interim report on their progress growing from their inception just a little over 8 months ago, the European Business Schools/Women on Boards initiative announced that they will have doubled the number of their 3500 “Board Ready Women” list published on 07 March to 7000 “Board Ready Women” in just 2 months with the inclusion of the Italian Parliament/Bocconi and Fondazione Bellisario lists as well as the International Association of University Women, Geneva Group International (GGI), the American Chamber of Commerce in France and Corporate Women, and the European Federation of Management Development (EFMD).

The EFMD gathers more than 700 Business Schools and Corporate Members throughout Europe and the world and is the premiere rating agency for business schools. They will now be contacting all of their members to participate in the initiative’s program of listing “Board Ready Women” according to the group’s selection criteria guidelines

<http://www.edhec.com/html/Communication/womenonboard.html>, as well as urging all of their members to respond to Vice President Viviane Reding’s Public Consultation:

In addition, the group’s members will all be replying to the Public Consultation launched by Vice President Reding on this initiative.

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/gender-equality/opinion/120528\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/gender-equality/opinion/120528_en.htm)

The group notes with satisfaction that since the publication of their Call to Action on 05 December 2011 and their publication of Board Ready Women together with selection criteria guidelines on March 7<sup>th</sup>, a growing number of business schools, universities and professional associations have shown interest in the work of the EBS/WOD task force.

In the coming months, the group will therefore focus on 3 priorities:

- Extend the geographical coverage of the list of board-ready women to more European countries;
- Increase in the number of participating business schools and professional organizations to reflect the full breadth of the European female board-ready talent pool; and
- Growing the Data Base of board-ready women profiles

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For more information:

<http://www.edhec.com/html/Communication/womenonboard.html>,

[http://www.gtwn.org/call\\_to\\_action/](http://www.gtwn.org/call_to_action/)