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## PRESS RELEASE

**Time for a qualitative jump in boardrooms as the European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the European Voice of Directors.**

Boards of Directors need to work in a more professional way to keep European companies globally competitive. And the composition of boards can no longer be based on the "Old boys network". The topic of "professionalism of directors" that ecoDa has chosen for its 10th anniversary conference illustrates perfectly well the need for a qualitative jump in boardrooms.

*"It is important that board members show that they are ready to respond to the expectations coming from shareholders and stakeholders even if board members can't be responsible for everything",* says Lars-Erik Forsgårdh, chair of ecoDa.

ecoDa was set up in 2005 just before the launch of the first "Action plan on modernizing Company Law and enhancing CG in the EU". Commissioner Bolkestein considered *"Company Law and CG to be right at the hearth of the political agenda"*.

*"ecoDa's 10-year is a short time in history, but not in the history of Corporate Governance"* underlines Lars-Erik Forsgårdh. *"ecoDa has certainly made its mark by promoting Europeanisation of boardrooms, best Corporate Governance (CG) practices and a higher understanding of different national Corporate Governance models."*

10 years after the first Action plan, the topic of Corporate Governance is no longer a topic for a small community; an entire society wants to have a say on how companies are governed. The need for ecoDa to voice the views of European directors is therefore more urgent than ever.

At the ecoDa 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference, high-level speakers will give concrete examples on how directors add value to their boards and their companies. But directors from all over Europe will also explore the future, discuss the importance of economic intelligence and present a new study on how directors are appointed in Europe today.

ecoDa takes advantage of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to refresh the design of its logo but *"the spirit of continuity will be kept to pursue our objectives"* concludes Béatrice Richez-Baum, Secretary General.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### About ecoDa - The European Confederation of Directors' Associations

[www.ecoda.org](http://www.ecoda.org)

Programme of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference:

[http://ecoda.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/10th\\_anniversary/Programme -  
ecoDa\\_10th\\_anniversary\\_22\\_April\\_2015\\_up\\_14\\_April.pdf](http://ecoda.org/fileadmin/user_upload/10th_anniversary/Programme_-_ecoDa_10th_anniversary_22_April_2015_up_14_April.pdf)

ecoDa Annual Report 2014 is available at:

ecoDa's objective is to promote board members' skills, professionalism and impact on society. By contributing to a professional framework for both current and future board members, ecoDa hopes to help them to develop and add value to their organisations, both in the commercial and non-commercial sectors. ecoDa proposes solutions to the key corporate governance questions facing Europe today, including the challenge of helping board members to operate effectively across all the European Union Member States. ecoDa aims to be an active partner of the European Union and of its institutions – especially the European Parliament and European Commission.

*ecoDa's members:* the British IoD, the Belgian GUBERNA, the French IFA, the Luxembourgish ILA, the Spanish IC-A, the Finnish Hallitusammattilaiset ry, the Slovenian association of supervisory board members, the Croatian Association of certified supervisory board members, the Polish PID, the Norwegian institute of directors (Styreinstitutt), the Danish Board Network, the Swedish StyrelseAkademien, the German VARD, the Dutch NCD, the Italian Nedcomunity, the Portuguese Forum de Administradores de Empresas, the Malta IoD branch, the Cyprus IoD branch and the Macedonian IoD.

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