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PRESS RELEASE

VENTURE PHILANTHROPY KNOWLEDGE CENTRE LAUNCHED

Brussels (EVPA) 13 November 2009 – The European Venture Philanthropy Association launched the EVPA Knowledge Centre, with half a million Euros financial backing from across the continent - Fondazione CRT (I), Noaber Foundation (NL), Invest for Children (E), Natixis Private Equity (F). The initiative will address the need for that one definitive source of knowledge, research, and thought leadership in Europe. The announcement was made during their 5th annual conference hosted by ABN AMRO in Amsterdam this month.

Over the past decade, social enterprise, the theme of the conference, has been a growing phenomenon in Europe. Leaders with an entrepreneurial approach are taking the initiative in solving social problems. A new breed of philanthropic investor with business background looks for clearer results from, and more sustainable models for their investments. The financial crisis has accelerated this tendency as both seek to maximise the effects of scarcer financial resources.

“Social entrepreneurship is a major trend in Europe and I am pleased to see 350 participants from 28 countries gathered today. I am truly delighted that we can launch the Knowledge Centre on this occasion.” says Association Chairman Serge Raicher. “This is possibly the most important European initiative in the field of VP since the creation of EVPA itself 5 years ago. It is great to see that funding for this initiative comes from across Europe. The Knowledge Centre will be the hub for excellence in VP knowledge in Europe.”

A Research Director, who will lead the project, is to be recruited shortly. The first publication of the Centre, *Distance Learning : Managing Investments Overseas* has been printed in time for the conference. A second monograph on social enterprise will follow in the months ahead.

About EVPA

EVPA is a membership association made up of organisations who practice and are interested in venture philanthropy. The association counts more than 120 members in 22 countries, coming from sectors as diverse as private equity, foundations, universities, private banks, and law firms. For more information, please visit <http://www.evpa.eu.com>

Contact:

Beate Trück
Managing Director
European Venture Philanthropy Association
Tel: +32 (2) 513 21 31
Email: btrueck@evpa.eu.com

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