

## Press Release

### Employment – Equality – Competitiveness

#### Open day and Conference at the Hungarian National Assembly – 17 October 2008

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) organized the international conference on women's equality for the fourth time at the Hungarian National Assembly, the conference of 'Employment – Equality – Competitiveness' with 360 participants on 17 October 2008. The conference was sponsored by the National Employment Foundation in cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee of Employment and Labor as part of its open day. The main patrons of the conference were Erika Szűcs, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Dr. Zita Gurmai MEP, Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality. The host of the conference was Nándor Gúr, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Employment and Labor.

The outcome of the conference is that a need for a forum of knowledge transfer was established with the participation of organizations interested in and being able to work for the enlargement of employment and the realization of gender equality (EU, government, economic sector, non-profit organizations, media). This forum can be the basis for the enlargement of women's employment and a more characteristic representation of gender equality, thus contributing to the enlargement of the labor market, its greater effectiveness and the strengthening of economic competitiveness.

The five-year-old Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary was founded with the aim of improving the equality of women in career development and to support the protection of women's interests. The Association regards it a mission to facilitate the discussion among the government, for-profit, not for profit and academic sectors, for which this conference was an outstanding opportunity as the speakers were representatives of these fields at the highest level.

Vladimir Spidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, came to Hungary again at the invitation of Andrea Ferenczi, internationally recognized president in the field of diversity. The Afro-American diversity expert Douglas C. Freeman was a new attendee who introduced the diversity strategies and methods of American multinational companies and drew the attention of decision makers to these. The participants in the afternoon panel discussion, representing almost all the social sectors, talked with Szilvia Krizsó about what they can do for improving employment.

After the conference, at the reception given by AWCDH, the call for participation in 'The Best Workplace for Women - 2008' Award was announced, the 'Award for the Equality of Women' was ceremonially presented and the Hungarian Paralympic Team returning from Beijing received a special welcome.

***This year the following persons received the 'Award for the Equality of Women':***

**Vladimir Spidla**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**Edit Rauh**, Under-Secretary of State for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor

**Douglas C. Freeman**, CEO of Virtcom Consulting, US.

**Further information:**

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[www.womenscareer.org](http://www.womenscareer.org), [www.bestworkplaceforwomen.com](http://www.bestworkplaceforwomen.com)