



Meeting of 10,000 young European apprentices

Paris-Bercy – 3 October 2008

Join in the great European apprenticeship party!

On behalf of the French Presidency of the European Union, the French government is **promoting apprenticeship in France and Europe.**

The President of the French Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, have made the creation of an “Erasmus for Apprentices” one of **the two priorities of the French Presidency.**

The project is for France and Europe to **set up a European apprentice exchange programme** modelled on the long-running student exchange programme.

To point up this French and European drive to **promote apprenticeships as a first-class pathway with excellent prospects for young people**, Hervé Novelli, Minister of State for Trade, Small-Scale Industry, SMEs, Tourism and Services, has decided to host **a huge gathering of 10,000 apprentices from the 27 EU countries at Palais Omnisports Paris-Bercy on 3 October 2008.**

A campaign has been in operation since February to rally all the apprenticeship networks to make this event a great European party for young people training to work in professions in demand throughout Europe.

- ✓ Because the authorities' goal is to promote apprenticeships for Europe,
- ✓ Because networking with apprentices from all over Europe will broaden every apprentice's horizons,
- ✓ Because exchanges of cultures, talents and skills instil hope and confidence in the young people of Europe,
- ✓ Because this first meeting of European apprentices is a prime opportunity to show the French people and the whole of Europe how proud we are of our youth.

We hope you will flock to Paris to celebrate this drive to promote apprenticeship as a first-class pathway to a united Europe.

The success of this event hinges on participation by all the apprenticeship players, teachers, training supervisors, apprentice training centre managers and most importantly the apprentices themselves, who should feel free to make this event their very own massive party warmly welcoming the thousands of apprentices attending from the other European countries.

