



## Les Midis du CIFE - CIFE Lunchtime Debates

CIFE Office in Brussels

CIFE Alumni Brussels Group

### 4th Lunchtime Debate

#### ***Educating today the Europeans of tomorrow to construct Europe***

Guest : **Ján FIGEL**, Member of the European Commission  
Tuesday 9 October 2007, University Foundation, Brussels

#### **Short summary of Mr. Ján FIGEL's speech and replies in the debate**

### **European education becomes a decisive factor for the construction of a human community**

Mr. Ján Figel, the European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth illustrated his vision of a really integrated Europe generated through shared values, managed by wisdom, driven by real European citizens: "Integration is only possible with education".

Mr. Figel qualified the impact of education and training not only limited to the growth of Europe's GDP, but also as being vital for living together in peace, for personal development, for social inclusion and active citizenship.

Following the « success story » of Erasmus, Mr. Figel voted for an integrated approach to lifelong learning and for more mobility within the educational systems as being crucial for Europe's future position in the globalized world.

Within the global economy knowledge and skills are the foundations on which an integrated Europe must be built, Mr. Figel stated. European future strongly depends on the quality of education and training systems, on culture and creativity and on the capacity for innovation. However, European policy in Culture, Education, Youth, Sports and Training must be focused on two dimensions: the contribution of education and training to jobs and growth as well as its contribution to personal development, to solidarity and to citizenship. The main future challenges Europe faces – demography, innovation and combining excellence, quality, efficiency with equity – are closely linked to the two dimensions of European education and European cultural diversity. "For this reason", Mr. Figel underlined, "we need a genuine European area of lifelong learning for all. Therefore the European Commission is committed to supporting the Member States in their efforts to develop and implement successful lifelong learning strategies which are coherent, comprehensive and built on solid evidence."