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European confederation of the Administrators' Associations
European confederation of Directors' Associations

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ecoDa endorsement of national certification programs for director training and professional development

ecoDa believes that director education is an essential means of improving the effectiveness of national corporate governance systems.

The potential impact of director training on board behavior and director professionalism cannot be underestimated. It is no less important than efforts to establish an effective regulatory framework for boards through corporate governance codes and other legislative measures.

Consequently, director training should be given a high priority in efforts to improve the overall performance and legitimacy of corporate governance.

A key role of ecoDa's member institutes is to certify / accredit programs of director training and ongoing professional development within their respective countries. ecoDa fully supports the efforts of its national institutes of directors in this activity.

In line with many national Corporate Governance Codes and the OECD Principles, ecoDa recognises the following key pillars of certification, each of which seeks to build empowered boards and develop the competencies of individual board members: high quality education programs with a focus on the specific professional needs; examination of competencies and continuing education processes; and measures to secure the commitment of directors to relevant codes of professional conduct.

ecoDa believes that national certification programs are best run and overseen by independent, non-profit organizations, such as established national directors' organizations, using the best educational resources available.

Board and director professionalism has never been more important. ecoDa fully endorses the efforts of its national institutes to raise standards in the certification of director training. They represent a crucial component of ecoDa's broader mission to raise overall standards of corporate governance in Europe.

EcoDa, the European Confederation of Directors' Associations is a not-for-profit association active since March 2005 and based in Brussels.

Through its 10 national institutes of directors, ecoDa represents around 55,000 board members from across the EU, ensuring that their views on Corporate Governance are clearly communicated to policy-makers in the EU institutions. EcoDa's member organisations represent board directors from the largest public companies to the smallest private firms, both listed and unlisted.

EcoDa intends to be a high-level forum for debate and for exchange of experiences to promote high standards for directors. It acts as a standing body where national experiences are shared and discussed in detail. It represents "the European Voice of Board Directors".

www.ecoda.org