

## Press release

Date: 22 October 2008

### Euranet organises pan-European debate in Brussels

The European radio network Euranet is organising a debate in ten languages on 12 November 2008 about the troubled relationship between the European Union and its citizens. Leading EU officials will join in debate with students from various member states. Among those who will be taking part is the President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering. Euranet is an initiative launched by fifteen European broadcasting organisations, including Deutsche Welle, Radio France Internationale, Radio Netherlands, Polskie Radio, Punto Radio and RTBF. It aims to reduce the gulf between the EU and its inhabitants.

The central question is how the European Union can become more concrete for Europeans themselves. Presenters Vanessa Mock (Radio Netherlands Worldwide) and Jean-Michel Bos (Deutsche Welle) will address a range of themes, from immigration and climate change to intercultural dialogue and public liberties. The actual debates will alternate with short films and musical interludes.

Students taking courses in journalism or foreign languages play an important role in the debates. They will be subjecting EU-experts to a barrage of critical questions. The students come from various countries including England (Cambridge University), Germany (Aachen University), France (Eur@dioNantes), Belgium (IHECS), the Netherlands (Roosevelt Academy) and Romania (Babes Boliaj University).

#### 10-language debate

The debate will take place on 12 November 2008 between 17.00 and 20.00 hours in the central auditorium of the European Parliament. The meeting will be broadcast by Euranet and its partner stations on internet and partly on radio.

#### Press conference

The European radio network Euranet is a new initiative in the European media scene. The pan-European media consortium – an amalgamation of international, national, regional and local European broadcasters – gives reporting in Europe a new dimension. It provides information about events in Europe no longer from just a national perspective but from a trans-national one. At first Euranet began broadcasting in April 2008 in ten languages. Now the interactive web page of the network will be pictured:

The launch of the “community on web” will be presented in the press room of the European Commission from 11.30 to 12.00 on 11 November 2008. Among others the CEOs of Euranet will explain the aims and technical facilities of the forthcoming Internet site.

More information on [www.euranet.eu](http://www.euranet.eu).