



PRESS RELEASE

Foundation legitimacy on the agenda at inaugural Autumn Assembly

Brussels, 4 November 2011 – As the strings tighten on government purses across Europe, the role and influence of non-profit organisations are growing, resulting in a number of questions being raised about the legitimacy of foundations. Are the existing regulation frameworks enough to ensure that the 110,000 foundations working across the EU – who cumulatively spend between 83 and 150 billion euros per year – remain sufficiently transparent and accountable?

This question tops the agenda at the first ever Autumn Assembly on 6 November, which will bring together formally, for the first time, EFC and DAFNE members representing nearly 6,000 foundations from across the continent. Articulating a clear, representative voice for these foundations on the topics that matter is essential if the sector is to be recognised – let alone appreciated - at EU level. The Assembly, which will henceforth be held annually in Brussels, will ensure that this collective voice is heard. Taking place at the European Economic and Social Committee, this landmark event will get to grips with foundations' compliance, governance, stewardship, disclosure and communication strategies.

The event will also present the results of a new study on the regulatory and self-regulatory frameworks governing the transparency and accountability of foundations in Europe. Assembled delegates will address how to better illustrate that foundations in Europe are well-governed, compliant and liable: in short, legitimate bodies that deserve more recognition.

The day will also include an Extraordinary General Assembly of EFC members to decide on key changes to the Centre's governance, and will conclude with a cocktail reception at Foundation House, the future 'home away from home' for European foundations.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Press registration: Journalists and members of the press are welcome to attend the event free of charge. Please contact Jon Warne at communications@efc.be before 4 November to register.

About the EFC

The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is an association representing more than 230 public-benefit foundations and corporate funders active in philanthropy in Europe and beyond. The EFC develops and pursues activities in line with its objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations; documenting the foundation landscape; strengthening the infrastructure of the foundation sector; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors, to advance the public good in Europe and beyond.

www.efc.be

About DAFNE

DAFNE is a network with its own governance structure bringing together 22 donors and foundations networks from across Europe. Each of these individually serves public benefit foundations and other grantmakers at national level. With a collective membership of over 6,000 foundations, DAFNE underpins the individual activities of its members by strengthening collaboration between the national associations and providing a platform for exchange of knowledge. The secretariat of DAFNE is hosted by the EFC.

www.dafne-online.eu

About foundations in Europe

It is estimated that there are some 110,000 foundations in Europe, collectively spending between 83 and 150 billion euros annually on projects and programmes, and providing employment to up to one million Europeans. Foundations come in many shapes and sizes, with some offering grants while others prefer to operate their own programmes. In towns, cities, regions and countries across Europe, they can be found running or funding hospitals and universities; protecting historic buildings, promoting cultural activities, stimulating economic development and employment, supporting scientific excellence, advancing civil and human rights, engaging in environmental conservation, and much, much more.