

French multinationals look for Romanian specialists

PARIS - French companies sent a strong message to Romanian students and specialists, during the Congress of Young Romanian Professionals in France, expressing interest in recruiting them for highly responsible positions back home or worldwide.

More than 300 Romanians with academic studies and French business leaders attended the event organized in partnership with BRD Groupe Societe Generale, Michelin,



Gelin (r) gives encouraging message.

Vinci Construction and Orange.

"Romania needs well trained professionals," said Patrick Gelin, general manager with BRD Groupe Societe Generale. "We are ready to employ young Romanian graduates of major French schools, if they decide to come back to Romania."

Jean Francois Boucher, vice president of Michelin Romania, added: "Michelin's arrival to Romania aimed at

setting a foothold on the eastern European market, which has a special potential. This is not a transfer from the west to the east, but a step towards long-term development. We need French-Romanian professionals to develop projects in Romania."

According to the congress organizers, in France there are currently around 10,000 Romanian students and professionals with university studies, and some are interested in going back to their country, should they meet attractive career opportunities.

"If your dream is to construct buildings and bridges by joining an international team, then come to Vinci Construction. We shall build them together," said Raoul Dessaigne, deputy general manager with Vinci Construction Filiales Internationales.

Frederic Adida, development director of the French school Ecole Superieure de Gestion, underlined the message. "The value of Romanian IT and telecom specialists is well known worldwide. You mustn't worry about what country will help you develop your career, but about which are the international partners worth

working for. Many times, Romanian SMEs don't have the boldness to adventure themselves abroad, thus being quickly absorbed by foreign companies. It's time you trusted your innovation and development capacities in Romania."

The event was supported by senator Henri Revol, as well as by the Romanian Foreign Affairs minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu and the French Internal Affairs minister Nicolas Sarkozy. **(Ingrid Vaileanu-Paun)**

profit and turnover last year, the company's preliminary results showed. Biofarm's net profit advanced by 35 per cent to 11.7 million lei, while its turnover soared by 37 per cent to 50.3 million lei. According to Mediafax, the company finalized an investment project worth nine million Euro last year, which helped it triple its production capacity and reach international standards.

LOCAL UPDATE

Romania gets liquefied gas terminal

Romania will build an liquefied gas terminal in the Black Sea port of Constanta, in collaboration with Qatar, president Traian Basescu said last Friday, in the opening of the International Conference regarding develop. "Romania can develop an

alternative to the pipes system," said the President, inviting other European countries to join in to help realize this project. Basescu added that creating an alternative energy provider is necessary after the "small energetic choc" from this winter. "In the extensive area of the Black Sea there are countries that supply energy but are also becoming big security consumers," he said.

Rompetrol

continued from page 1

of the stock exchange, and money-laundering totaling millions of Euro.

The deputy's sudden transfer to Rompetrol offices in Amsterdam last month raised suspicions that he was trying to escape from the criminal inquiry and evade arrest. Contacted by BBW, Stephenson refused to comment on the suspicions. In a press release, Rompetrol said Stephenson "could not be a common crook as he is a millionaire American business man, a graduate of Harvard, and an ex-official of the US Treasury."

Patriciu denied to local media he had any recent contact with his American ex-deputy and had no knowledge on whether Stephenson knew about the prosecutors' request to the Bucharest court for his arrest.

Patriciu described the investigation as "anticorruption hysteria." The Bucharest court is presently analyzing

the arrest requests for Patriciu and Stephenson, with prosecutors saying that binding allegations included fraud in trading shares, with disclosure of privileged information; manipulation of the stock exchange; tax evasion; money-laundering and embezzlement with grave consequences. The court must decide before March 3.

Officials with the Organized Crime and Terrorism Investigation Department said in an official press release last week that the two Rompetrol leaders set up an organized financial trans-border criminal group.

They said the criminal group, "was structured on many levels including decision-making, planning and execution between 1998 and 2005 comprising a large number of Romanian and foreign citizens." Prosecutors added that the group intended to mislead Romanian authorities through certain privatization processes and to avoid payment of major taxes.

Patriciu said the investigations were



Let me explain! (I to r) Patriciu and Stephenson

simply political, "unfortunately transformed into a media mockery." The CEO accused President Basescu of being behind the hysteria. Prosecutors proposed an immediate 30-day arrest of Patriciu, Stephenson and of Richard Colin Hart, representative of a Cypriot company involved with Rompetrol. Lawyers for the three men argued that they needed more time to prepare their defense and that procedural requirement regarding the presence in court of Stephenson and Hart had not been fulfilled. Prosecutors said immediate arrest of the three people was urgent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

february 20 - 26

Monday, 20th

✓ Manpower organizes press conference: "Changing", at World Trade Center, Beijing and Vienna Hall, at 11.00 AM Information: madalina.motora@manpower.ro.

Tuesday, 21st

✓ Alexandrion Grup Romania organizes reception to launch the new brandy: "Brancoveanu", at Romanian Opera, 19.00 AM. Special host guest: Mircea Albulescu. Information: Cristina Copaceanu: 0729.035.639
✓ Romanian-German Chamber of Trade and Industry, IMB Fair: "World of Textile Processing", at JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel, Galati Hall, 9.00 AM

Wednesday, 22nd

✓ Association of Leasing companies in Romania press conference at JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel, Craiova Ballroom, 12.00 PM. Information: office@asl.ro
✓ Peacock Hotels/ Global Hotel Management press conference at McMoni's Club, at 9.30 AM. Information: development@peacockhotels.ro.

Thursday, 23rd

✓ Magyar Telekom and Combridge, press conference for the launch of EUfonika, a new brand in Romanian telecommunication market, at Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel, Arizona Hall, 11.00 AM. The reception will be held at Platinum Grand Ballroom, at 19.00 PM. By invitation only. For further information: hortensia.nastase@loweworldwide.com.
✓ DQS Romania the second reunion of DQS Romania Clients at JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel, Salon A&B of the Grand Ballroom, 8.00 AM.
✓ Intel launches the Intel Centrino Duo platform, at Howard Johnson Grand Plaza Hotel Platinum Grand Ballroom, at 8.00 AM.

Friday, 24th

✓ CHR Consulting organize RoFrancize International Franchise Fair and the RoFrancize Symposium: "Methods and Sources of Franchise Information - Franchise in Romania vs. Franchise in Europe", at the World Trade Center, Bucharest, Feb. 24-26. Information: emilia@francize.ro.

Hosting a business event?

Please send details to anca.axente@bbw.ro at least 3 weeks ahead to have it included in the BBW Business Calendar.