

Press Release

4 GREEK BUSINESSES RECEIVE A RUBAN D'HONNEUR AT THIS YEAR'S EUROPEAN BUSINESS AWARDS SPONSORED BY THE HSBC GROUP

At this year's European Business Awards which are being sponsored by the **HSBC** Group, **4 Greek businesses** received a **Ruban d'Honneur**. The crème de la crème of Greek businesses is now represented by RAYCAP S.A., Pharmathen S.A., GAEA PRODUCTS S.A., and Macedonian Thrace Brewery S.A.

Some of Europe's most dynamic businesses have survived intensive and rigorous judging to make it onto the finalists list. With victory in their sights they now have a chance to be crowned as one of ten overall category winners in the Awards.

Adrian Tripp, Chief Executive of the European Business Awards, said: "Receiving a Ruban d'Honneur is a major success. It promotes the fact that you're up there with the best businesses across the European community. This year has been tough on the judging panel as we're seeing businesses emerge from economic difficulties and come out fighting and delivering some great entries. The mood is confident, ebullient and highly competitive."

Giannis Kyriazopoulos, Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC Greece, stated: '*Despite the fact that there are not many winning companies, all entries proved that there are major business talents in each individual country and the European economy overall, which contribute to production and prosperity each and every day. We deal with that everyday, bringing together businesses with major potential and prospects at a global level; businesses that are seeking international opportunities for development, with long-term prospects. As this year's Awards make clear, the European market has many reasons to feel confident.*'

Ruban d'Honneur recipients are preparing to present face to face before a second judging panel in London in September. The overall winners in each of the categories will be announced at the Awards ceremony in Barcelona on 22nd November 2011.

The Ruban d'Honneur is awarded to ten successful entrants in each of the award categories: The UKTI Award for Innovation, The HSBC International Growth Strategy of the Year Award, The Award for Environmental and Corporate Sustainability, The Award for Customer Focus, The Employer of the Year Award, The RSM International Entrepreneur of the Year Award, The HSBC Import/Export Award, The Infosys Business of the Year Award (T/O €0-25m), (T/O €26-150m), (T/O €150m +).

To view the list of Ruban d'Honneur recipients please visit the following webpage:
<http://www.businessawardseurope.com/ruban-dhonneur-categories/2011>.