



Press Release

Increasing cross-border fundraising requires better monitoring **Charity “watchdogs”: new challenges for transparency and accountability**

The collection of private donations, although still significantly influenced by national rules and traditions, is increasingly subject to cross-border fundraising activities. “Therefore, independent accreditation and monitoring of charities should be established in more countries in order to cultivate donors’ trust in charities worldwide”, said **Rollin van Broekhoven**, President of ICFO – the international association of national monitoring organizations for charities.

As of 1st May 2009, ICFO welcomed the **Belgium foundation “Donorinfo”** as a **new supporting member**. Since 2005, Donorinfo has established an independent online database providing information on more than 200 Belgium charities (www.donorinfo.be).

Members of ICFO from Europe, the United States of America, Canada, Taiwan, and other high ranking experts in the management and monitoring of charitable organizations convened at the ICFO Annual General Meeting on 24th and 25th April 2009 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The ICFO working conference on 24th April – co-hosted by the Dutch accreditation body Centraal Bureau Fondsenwerving (CBF) and the Dutch Chamber of Commerce – was devoted to the **recent judgements of the European Court of Justice on tax benefits for charities in Europe** (“Stauffer” and “Persche” cases), and to globalization of fundraising. Those developments evoke new challenges for transparency and require strengthening of independent accreditation of fundraising organizations.

At the Amsterdam conference the **European Center for Not-for Profit Law** (Budapest, Hungary) presented its new “Study on Recent Public and Self-Regulatory Initiatives Improving Transparency and Accountability of Non-profit Organisations in the European Union”. The European Center **highlights ICFO and CBF** (one of the founding members of ICFO) as **good models for private accreditation of charities**. Other speeches at the ICFO conference were itemizing the themes of transparency, accountability, evaluation of the Tsunami relief and cooperation between national monitoring organizations relating to international standards and charity monitoring. **Presentations of the ICFO conference are available under www.icfo.de.**

ICFO was established in 1958. Its members have sophisticated national and common international standards for good governance and management of charities.

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For more information, please contact:

Burkhard Wilke, Secretary General ICFO
(wilke@dzi.de) Tel: +49 (0)30 839 001-11

ICFO General Secretariat

c/o Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen (DZI), Bernadottestr. 94, D-14195 Berlin
www.icfo.de, e-mail: wilke@dzi.de, Tel: +49 (0)30 839 001-11, Fax: +49 (0)30 831 47 50