

## Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> EIBA Annual Conference

On behalf of our colleagues at Maastricht University and the EIBA Board, we are very pleased to welcome you to the 26<sup>th</sup> EIBA Annual Conference. A lot of hard work has been put into this conference in order to make it an enjoyable and intellectually challenging experience. We sincerely hope you will enjoy your stay in Maastricht.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Maastricht 2000 – European business in the global network'. The plenary session on Monday morning, December 11<sup>th</sup>, will be addressed by John Dunning and Luc Soete, who will both reflect on this theme. As you will notice from the program, the theme of networks will frequently return in many of the sessions that make up the conference.

Owing to the efforts of a large number of reviewers, we were able to work our way through the reviewing process within weeks after receiving the first papers. We would like to extend our thanks to all of the reviewers, many of whom were asked to review three or even four papers in a very short period of time. This year's conference features 147 presentations, with 80 competitive papers and 46 workshop papers included in the program. We are also pleased to announce that we will submit for the approval of the EIBA annual meeting an agreement between EIBA and the *International Business Review*, one aspect of which will be an annual special issue devoted to the EIBA conference.

Dinners at this conference are arranged for Monday and Tuesday evening. The Monday evening dinner is the official gala dinner, while Tuesday evening will be a so-called Maastricht Evening with a high 'Mardi Gras' or 'Carnaval' content, a decidedly less formal affair. During both days lunches will be served at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the main venue of our conference.

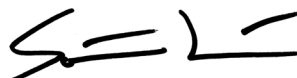
This year's conference is sponsored by a number of companies and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Canon Europa NV, our main sponsor, along with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), as well as the exhibiting publishers, Elsevier Science, Pearson Education and Thomson Learning. Last but not least, we gratefully acknowledge the support of the University of Maastricht through the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration and the research school METEOR.

We would also like to thank Danny Van Den Bulcke for organizing the 14<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Tutorial in International Business. The number of applications to the Tutorial reached an all-time high this year, and as in previous years, EIBA will present the Doctoral Tutorial award for the most promising thesis proposal. EIBA is also host to the Gunnar Hedlund dissertation prize, which will be presented during the gala dinner.

We hope you will enjoy the conference.



John Hagedoorn



Sarianna Lundan