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European Administrative School (EAS)

The Leadership Club: "Develop your vision, transform the organization, network with your peers"

It isn't every day that you see a genuinely innovative idea come to fruition, least of all one which cuts across traditional institutional boundaries. However, on 16th April, at the offices of the EAS in Rue De Mot 24, the Leadership Club was launched.

In his introduction, David Walker, EAS' Director, explained that the Club was developed to give **senior managers** in the EU institutions the chance to **meet each other in an informal setting** away from their usual workplaces, to broaden their understanding of the **key issues** that could have an impact on how they work and to get to know each other better.

Senior managers from nearly all the institutions attended, helping to create a real mixture of experience and backgrounds for the first meeting of the Club.

It was decided to **restrict the number of participants** at this first meeting to about 30, so that the **intimacy and immediacy** of the event could be protected, even though this meant disappointing many of the nearly 100 applicants who had expressed an interest in taking part.

At this first meeting, Hans Corell, formerly Legal Counsel to the **United Nations**, and who had been with Kofi Annan in Kenya only a few weeks earlier, spoke to the Club and shared his experience of high-level leadership, of the challenges he had faced in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment and the solutions he had found. The participants then broke up into smaller **workshops** to consider different aspects of leadership, before meeting again to share their ideas. This led to a lively and open discussion facilitated by David Walker, which demonstrated the strength of an approach where so much experience and thinking can be brought together.

The Club then moved to the European Parliament for lunch, where the participants were able to continue their discussions and to cement new contacts. The positive approach by everyone involved allowed a genuinely open exchange of views, which very much reflected the goals and spirit of the Club. By the end of the meeting, there was wide agreement on the value of the initiative and a clear wish that it should be continued and developed.

Following this first success, the EAS will continue to develop the Leadership Club, building upon the lessons learned and the valuable experience gained. **Details of the next meeting** are currently being prepared and will be made available to senior managers in the Institutions in the coming weeks.

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