



The World Trade Center Chicago and the U.S. Export Assistance Center

Invite you to attend a breakfast seminar

“CENTRAL EUROPE – NEXT STOP EUROPEAN UNION”



*Tuesday, November 18, 2003
8:00a.m. to 10:30a.m.
World Trade Center Chicago
The Merchandise Mart Suite 1540
Chicago, Illinois*

May 1, 2004, will mark an historic moment in the development of the European Union, as the organization opens its doors to 10 new members, many of them from Central and Eastern Europe. Is your company positioning itself to take advantage of these changes? How do you plan to tap into an expanded potential market of over 500 million consumers? Do you have a regional approach for Central Europe and the EU? Are you aware of EU and EBRD funded projects? Are you actively pursuing the opportunities that exist in these developing markets?

On November 18, 2003, the World Trade Center Chicago and the U.S. Export Assistance Center will host a seminar addressing the commercial opportunities that next year's EU expansion will create. This program will feature senior U.S. commercial officers from **Hungary** and **Slovakia**, trade and a investment representative from the **Czech Republic**, a consul from the Consulate General of **Lithuania** in Chicago, and a official from the Central and Eastern Europe Business Information Center (**CEEBC**) in Washington, DC.

- The **Czech Republic's** well-packaged investment incentives have induced many U.S., Japanese, and European firms to buy or build factories here, and the region is regaining much of its manufacturing might. While the country is still very attractive location of high value-added, precision manufacturing, Czech economic officials are now making a late shift in strategy to attract high-tech industry and service centers as well as support local small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Hungary** has emerged from the transition period of the 1990s a robust, fully functioning market economy. As a result of successful reforms, Hungary is now one of Europe's fastest-growing and most open economies, deeply integrated into the European economy.
- **Lithuania** is the largest of the Baltic republics, and offers some of the best opportunities for US firms, especially in consumer products, computers and office equipment, capital equipment and machinery, environmental and electric power generation technologies. With 2002 GDP growth of 6.7%, Lithuania's economy demonstrates a growing potential for foreign investment.
- With continued stable GDP growth (3-4%) and decreasing unemployment, **Slovakia** has been able to more than triple its FDI over the last 3 years. Export opportunities in many sectors are not being met as enterprises in the country, as well as in the region, are restructuring and need to modernize their equipment and technology.



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Registration Form

Find out what business opportunities might exist for your firm as these countries prepare to join the EU in 2004. Following the seminar, the officers will be available for one-on-one meetings. For more information please contact Emily Brinkmoeller at 312-467-0603 Fax: 312-467-0615(ebrinkmoeller@wtcc.org) or Stuart Schaag at 312-353-7711 (stuart.schaag@mail.doc.gov).

Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$25

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***Payment must be received by November 17, 2003 at Noon.
All cancellations must be made by November 14, 2003 in order to receive full refund.***

