ebla2007
European Business Leaders Awards

Presented by
CNBC EUROPE

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Alessandro Profumo

Chief Executive Officer, UniCredit Group

European Business Leader of the Year
(Sponsored by BT)

Alessandro Profumo is the Chief Executive Officer of UniCredit Group. UniCredit's mission is to create a new way of banking, which, through time, will generate high levels of value for the community, customers, employees and shareholders. Profumo was initially at Banca Lariano from 1977 to 1987. In 1991, he began working for RAS where he was responsible for banking and parabanking. In 1994 he joined Credito Italiano where he was appointed Deputy General Manager and put in charge of Planning & Group Control. A year later he was appointed Chief General Manager. His appointment to Chief Executive Officer came in April 1997.

Born in 1957, Profumo holds a degree in Business Economics from the Bocconi Business University. Currently he is also a Member of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Börse-Frankfurt and Member of the Board of Directors of Mediobanca. Profumo has written numerous articles and studies and in 2003, together with Giovanni Moro, wrote a book entitled Plus Valori, which deals with companies' social responsibility. In 2004 he was conferred the "Cavaliere al Merito del Lavoro" of the Republic of Italy (a decoration given to important figures in industry).

Tadashi Arashima

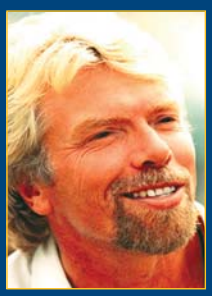
President and CEO, Toyota Motor Europe

European Business Leader of the Year (Global/Local)

Tadashi Arashima graduated from Keio University with a degree in Political Science in 1973. He began working in the North America Division of Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) in Tokyo, Japan that same year.

In 1977 he moved to Torrance, California in the U.S. where he worked for Toyota Motor Sales USA (TMS). Since then he has worked in Japan and California holding varying positions within the Toyota Motor Corporation, including Vice President of Corporate Planning for Toyota Motor Sales, Production Control Division General Manager in the Europe Africa Division, Senior Vice-President and Chief Coordinating Executive of Toyota Motor Europe Marketing and Engineering, General Manager of the TMC Europe Division and CEO of Toyota Motor Marketing Europe.

Following the legal merger of Toyota Motor Europe, Toyota Motor Marketing Europe and Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing in October 2005, Mr. Arashima assumed the position of President, TMME Company, Toyota Motor Europe.



Richard Branson

Chairman, The Virgin Group plc

Outstanding Leadership in Business Practices

Richard Branson was born in 1950 and educated at Stowe School where he began to set up Student Magazine when he was just 16. By 17 he'd also set up Student Advisory Centre, which was a charity to help young people.

In 1970 he founded Virgin as a mail order record retailer, and not long after he opened a record shop in Oxford Street, London. During 1972 a recording studio was built in Oxfordshire, and the first Virgin artist, Mike Oldfield, recorded "Tubular Bells" which was released in 1973.

Since then many household names, including Belinda Carlisle, Genesis, Phil Collins, Janet Jackson and The Rolling Stones have helped to make Virgin Music one of the top six record companies in the world. The equity of Virgin Music Group - record labels, music publishing, and recording studios was sold to THORN EMI in 1992 in a US$1billion deal.

The Virgin Group has now expanded into international music Megastores, air travel, mobile, financial, retail, music, internet, drinks, rail, hotels and leisure, with around 200 companies in over 30 countries.

José Luis Duran

Chairman of Management Board, Groupe Carrefour

Business Leader of the Future

After studying economics, José Luis Duran started his career in 1987 with Arthur Andersen. He joined Pryca (subsidiary of Carrefour) in 1991 where he held the roles of Management Auditor (1991-1994), Management Auditor - Southern Europe (1994-1996) and then Management Auditor - Americas Region until 1997. After holding the role of Chief Financial Officer at Pryca he became Chief Financial Officer for Carrefour Spain in 1999. In April 2001, he was appointed CFO and Managing Director of Organization and Systems for Carrefour and joined the group's Executive Committee.

On 3 February 2005, José Luis Duran became Group Managing Director.
On 20 April 2005, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Management.

Guerrino De Luca

President and CEO, Logitech International

Innovator of the Year

Guerrino De Luca, an industry veteran with more than 20 years domestic and international experience, leads Logitech's continuing growth as the world's largest manufacturer of computer mice and a major provider of interface devices designed to provide a natural, intuitive link between people and the digital world of information.

Prior to joining Logitech, Mr. De Luca held a broad range of executive positions at Apple Computer, Claris Corporation and Olivetti. Most recently, he served as Apple's Executive Vice President of worldwide marketing. Prior to this role, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Claris Corp., one of the world's largest vendors of personal computing software. Under his leadership at Claris, the company showed significant worldwide growth and posted record revenue and profits.

Michael Spencer

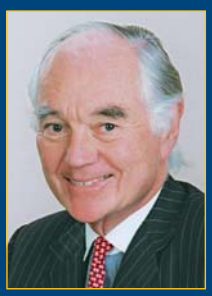
Chief Executive, ICAP

Entrepreneur of the Year

Michael Spencer studied at Worth Abbey and Corpus Christi, Oxford and then started his career in 1976, as a stockbroker at Simon and Coates. In 1980, he joined Drexel Burnham Lambert where he spent three years broking futures and became an Assistant Vice President.

Between 1983 and 1986, Michael Spencer was a director at money broker Charles Fulton, until his involvement in the new interest rate swaps market led him to set up Intercapital in May 1986. As a specialist financial derivatives broking firm, Intercapital grew from the original four people to over three hundred world-wide, with offices in London, New York, Sydney, Singapore and a joint venture in Tokyo.

In October 1998 Intercapital merged with EXCO plc and formed Intercapital plc where Michael Spencer became Chairman and Chief Executive. The following year Intercapital plc merged again, this time with Garban plc to form ICAP plc. Michael Spencer is also Chairman of the Intercapital Private Group Ltd, a private company which owns leading financial spread betting bookmaker, City Index and various other interests. In June 2003 Michael Spencer became Chairman of Numis Corporation plc.



Sir John Bond

Chairman, Vodafone Group plc

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sir John Bond became Chairman of Vodafone Group plc on 25 July 2006 having previously served as a Non-Executive Director. He is also a non-executive director of Ford Motor Company.

Previously he was Group Chairman of HSBC Holdings plc until May 2006, when he stepped down after a 45 year career with HSBC. Sir John joined The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited in 1961 and worked in Asia for 25 years and the USA for four years, before coming to London in 1993. He became Group Chief Executive of HSBC Holdings on 1 January 1993 when HSBC merged with Midland Bank plc, and became Group Chairman on 29 May 1998.

His previous appointments include non-executive director of London Stock Exchange from 1994 to 1999, British Steel from 1994 to 1998 and Orange from 1996 to 1999; he was also on the Court of the Bank of England from 2001 to 2004. He was Chairman of the Institute of International Finance, Washington DC (an organization of over 300 banks) from 1998 to 2003 and was elected President of the International Monetary Conference (IMC) in June 2002.

Following his education in the UK, Sir John held an English-Speaking Union Scholarship in the USA from 1959 to 1960; from November 1997 to December 2003 he was a Governor of the English-Speaking Union. He was elected a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in 1983.

His Knighthood was conferred for services to banking in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1999. In 2003 Sir John was awarded both the Magnolia Gold Award by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and the Foreign Policy Association, New York's Gold Medal.