

Maia, 25 May 2016

## European Pact for Youth

### **SONAE JOINS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN DEFENSE OF A PRO-YOUTH AND PRO-INNOVATION EUROPE**

**European leaders representing business, academics, politics and youth met in Brussels to develop or consolidate partnerships that support youth employment and inclusion.**

Luís Filipe Reis, Chief Corporate Center Officer (CCCO) of Sonae, participated in the first leaders meeting of the European Pact for Youth, in Brussels, which aims to promote Europe as a space that supports youth employability and inclusion in the job market. The meeting, presided by Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, and by Etienne Davignon, Minister of State and President of CSR Europe, represented an opportunity to share and reflect on the progress made to reach the goal of 10,000 new business-education partnerships in Europe and establish 100,000 new good-quality apprenticeships and traineeships.

Luís Filipe Reis says, “Youth unemployment and matching skills to labour market needs are two of the greatest challenges Europe is currently facing. At Sonae, we are committed to be part of a solution, for which we were pioneer in joining the European Pact for Youth and developing initiatives that promote youth qualification and training.”

As an example, Sonae celebrated a cooperation protocol with the Portuguese Ministry of Education and Science to develop vocational courses in secondary education. This partnership is part of Sonae policy of human resources and cooperation with other academic and teaching institutions that intends to capacitate young people by developing workplace training, providing a better preparation for the job market. The partnership allows Sonae to put its knowledge and competencies at the service of the Community, as well as human, technical and financial resources. The initiative will develop expert technicians that may eventually incorporate Sonae, contributing to further develop its operations.



Sonae is a multinational company managing a diversified portfolio of businesses in retail, financial services, technology, shopping centres and telecommunications. Present in over 70 countries, it reached a turnover of more than 5 billion euros by the end of 2015.  
Find out more at [www.sonae.pt](http://www.sonae.pt)

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## **Proposals for the European Enterprise-Education Summit to take place in 2017**

Together with every other supporter of the European Pact for Youth, Sonae believes in Europe as a solution provider, able to offer its youth guidance, motivation, competencies and opportunities in order to succeed both professionally and within society.

The leaders participating in the meeting discussed options to improve the quality and appeal of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and of learning systems, as well as to enhance the mobility of young apprentices and their teachers and trainers.

The goal is to make Vocational Education and Training an appealing, quality and equivalent option for European students, while also increasing youth employability and social inclusion by investing in the ongoing professional development of teachers and trainers.

Three action proposals stemming from the European Pact for Youth will be presented at the first European Enterprise-Education Summit, which will take place on 23 November 2017.

### **About the European Pact for Youth**

In order to be competitive in the global market, companies in Europe more than ever need young people with the right skills. At the same time, Europe has a significant untapped human capital potential. To achieve higher sustainable growth and more innovation, and take full advantage of the skills and talent available in Europe, business and the education sector need to open up to the world and to each other.

### **About CSR Europe**

CSR Europe is the leading European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility. Through its network of around 50 corporate members and 45 National CSR organisations, it gathers over 10,000 companies, and acts as a platform for those businesses looking to enhance sustainable growth and positively contribute to society. In its mission to bring the CSR agenda forward, CSR Europe goes beyond European borders and cooperates with CSR organisations in other regions across the world.