



PRESS RELEASE

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New CER pamphlet

## THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES Renaissance or decay?

By Richard Lambert and Nick Butler

Knowledge is an increasingly critical factor in shaping economic life. But in Europe, the institutions that should be the main sources of knowledge are failing to meet the challenge.

Among the world's top ten universities, only two are in the EU. Europe's higher education institutions are slow moving and under-funded. While the US is host of dozens of world-class universities, much of Europe's higher education remains unreformed and stuck in the past. If Europe wants to stop falling behind and stem the 'brain drain' across the Atlantic it must act now.

In this new CER pamphlet, Richard Lambert and Nick Butler argue that Europe needs to:

- ★ devote more resources to research;
- ★ improve the quality of its teaching;
- ★ build up centres of excellence;
- ★ strengthen links between education and business;
- ★ and give its universities more autonomy.

The authors also examine the role that the EU can play in improving higher education, for example by establishing the European Research Council.

### Notes for editors:

1. Richard Lambert will take over as Director General of the Confederation of British Industry in July 2006. He is a former editor of the *Financial Times*. Nick Butler is Group Vice President for Strategy and Policy Development at BP p.l.c. He is also chairman of the CER.
2. The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP will launch this publication on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
3. For further enquiries please call Kate Meakins on 00 44 20 7233 1199.
4. This paper can be ordered from the CER website ([www.cer.org.uk](http://www.cer.org.uk)) or by contacting [kate@cer.org.uk](mailto:kate@cer.org.uk).

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