

SUPPORT THE COMMISSION INITIATIVE FOR GROWTH AND JOBS



→ BECAUSE GROWTH AND JOBS ARE **VITAL** FOR EUROPE'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

→ BECAUSE IT IS NOW URGENT TO IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT **REFORM POLICIES** FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

→ BECAUSE A EUROPEAN-WIDE **COMMITMENT** FOR GROWTH AND JOBS IS NEEDED

18 EUROPEAN BUSINESS FEDERATIONS ARE UNITED TO CONVEY A COMMON MESSAGE TO THE EUROPEAN SPRING COUNCIL ON 22-23 MARCH 2005



Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union
General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the European Union



Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-Based Industries

|| alliance for a competitive european industry

11 European Industrial Branch Organisations and UNICE



ACEA

European Automobile Manufacturers Association



European Chemical Industry Council



The European Cement Association



The voice of commerce in Brussels



The European Banking Federation



Confederation of European Paper Industries



The Confederation of EU Food & Drink Industry



The European Apparel and Textile Organisation



European Federation of Accountants



European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.



Union of the Electricity Industry



European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries



European Association of Metals



THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE



European Petroleum Industry Association



Speaking for European engineering



THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

GROWTH AND JOBS ARE VITAL FOR EUROPE'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Intensifying global competition with emerging economies like China or India and Europe's ageing population make economic reforms a matter of pressing urgency. Europe is a world champion when it comes to social policy and environmental protection, but its economic potential is shrinking.

In 2000, the European Council proclaimed the **Lisbon Strategy** to turn Europe into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. But the reforms carried out since then have been insufficient. As a consequence, European GDP per person has deteriorated in comparison with global competitors, and unemployment has risen.

Europe needs to retrieve a growth path of 3% as foreseen by the Lisbon Strategy. Only then will we generate the employment and the resources we need to maintain our social and environmental aspirations.



IF POLICY-MAKERS
CREATE THE CONDITIONS
FOR GROWTH AND JOBS
IN EUROPE, EUROPEAN
BUSINESS IS READY TO
DELIVER THEM

IT IS NOW URGENT TO IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT REFORM POLICIES FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

The new initiative for growth and jobs proposed by the Commission in its report “Working Together for Growth and Jobs” is an important step towards a future-oriented EU economic policy. But now the right reform policies need to follow which focus on the real growth drivers.

The overall policy goal must be to foster a **globally competitive, entrepreneurial business environment**, because only private enterprise can increase the long-term growth potential and create viable jobs.

ENHANCING GROWTH MEANS BOOSTING COMPANY INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEMAND. BUSINESS THEREFORE URGES POLICY-MAKERS TO:



BOOST COMPANY INVESTMENT IN EUROPE BY ...

IMPROVING REGULATION AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS

- > **Cut red tape** and **simplify existing legislation** for companies, making more use of self- and co-regulation.
- > Conduct **impact assessments** on all EU law proposals taking full account of the potential consequences for European competitiveness, ensuring proper consultation of stakeholders, independence of judgement, and assessing the impact of amendments proposed during the legislative process.

SUPPORTING ALL FORMS OF INNOVATION

- > Promote **business-science relationship** with “European technology initiatives” and “centres of excellence”.
- > Create a favourable **framework for innovative SMEs** including access to finance.
- > Adopt a new EU **framework for state aid** to R&D and innovation.
- > Provide cheap and easy protection of **intellectual property**.
- > Increase resources and improve management of EU **programmes** for research and innovation.
- > Set up **national agendas** to enhance research and innovation.

PRESERVING A STRONG INDUSTRIAL BASE

- > Develop a **long-term perspective** for European industry based on extensive sector analyses.
- > Ensure competitive and market-based access to **network industries, especially energy**.
- > Ensure **cost-efficient** environmental legislation that does not put European business at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis other regions in the world. In that context, European business advocates that the Spring European Council addresses the issue of post-2012 climate change policy.



BOOST INTERNAL DEMAND BY ...

COMPLETING, EXTENDING AND DEEPENING THE INTERNAL MARKET

- > Eliminate obstacles to cross-border provision and establishment of **services** as a cornerstone of the revised Lisbon strategy.
- > Enforce consistent **national implementation** of existing Internal Market Directives, such as the Financial Services Action Plan.

ADAPTING THE LABOUR MARKET

- > Refocus the new EU **Social Policy Agenda** on encouraging necessary labour market reforms.
- > Promote job creation through more **labour market flexibility**.
- > Integrate **more** - especially older - **people on the labour market**.
- > Modernise **social protection systems** and reduce non-wage labour costs.
- > Equip our workforce with skills to compete in the global marketplace by developing strategies for **lifelong learning**.



BOOST EXTERNAL TRADE BY ...

ENSURING MORE OPEN AND COMPETITIVE GLOBAL MARKETS AND A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD

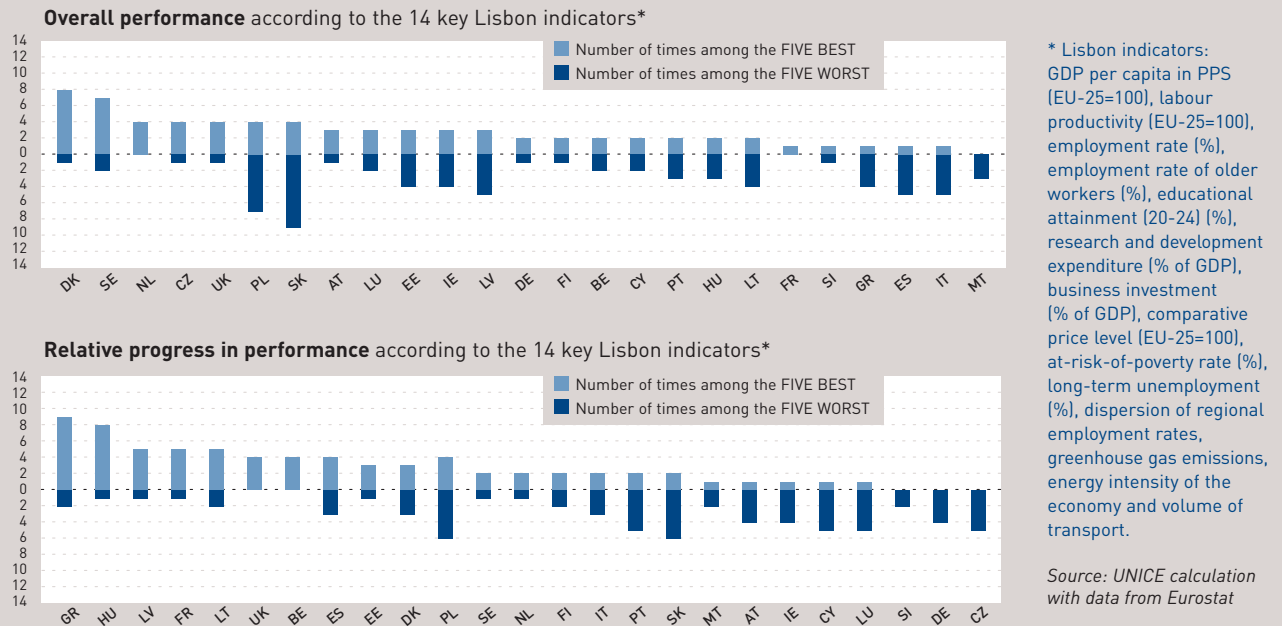
- > Achieve ambitious results in the **WTO Doha Development** negotiations on industrial market access, services liberalisation and trade facilitation.
- > Improve market access to third country markets through **bilateral and regional negotiations** especially in areas insufficiently covered by WTO negotiations, notably investment and regulatory cooperation.
- > Enhance **predictability and legal certainty** for companies involved in international trade and foreign investment.
- > Ensure the respect of **rules and commitments** and address **unfair practices** by third countries in the areas of access to resources, antidumping, energy and intellectual property.
- > Further harmonise, simplify and optimise **EU customs procedures**.

A EUROPEAN-WIDE COMMITMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS IS NEEDED

On 22-23 March 2005, Heads of State and Government should follow the European Commission's initiative and join in a European-wide partnership for growth and jobs.

National implementation of reform measures is crucial. Member States' successes in providing the conditions for creating growth and jobs have been very mixed. The Nordic countries are among the most competitive in the world. Some new Member States are catching up quickly thanks to extensive economic reforms. But some Member States are seriously lagging behind, dragging down Europe as a whole.

Overall performance and relative progress of EU Member States on the Lisbon targets



AT THE SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL, GOVERNMENTS MUST COMMIT TO ...

- > confirm the growth and jobs initiative of the Commission by quickly adopting all **EU legislation** which enhances the Internal Market.
- > prepare **national action programmes** for economic reform and to debate them with national parliaments, stakeholders and the wider public.
- > **benchmark their performance** and **identify best practices** inside and outside Europe.
- > enhance the role of the **Competitiveness Council** as guardian of Europe's competitiveness.