



**Business message** handed over by **Ernest-Antoine Seillière**, President of BUSINESSEUROPE, and **Jean-Claude Daoust**, President of FEB-VBO, on the occasion of the **European Business Summit of 15-16 March 2007**.

**BUSINESSEUROPE**, representing the European business community, has always supported the European project because of the benefits Europe brings to society as a whole. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties gives us an opportunity to assess Europe's performances and look ahead to opportunities. European employers have high expectations from the Berlin Declaration which will set out the future of Europe.

### **Companies' contribution is strong**

Europe is currently in a good **economic upturn**: 3% growth in 2006, an outlook for 2007 that remains positive and unemployment currently at its lowest level since 1990. Strong **job creation** is the most encouraging sign in this upturn. The EU economy will have created over 8.6 millions new jobs over the period 2006-2008. This bears witness to the ongoing **contribution of European companies** to a sustained recovery.

### **The current challenges require action**

Despite the progress made in economic reforms, Europe's economy is still **not competitive enough** to face globalisation and an ageing population. It is necessary that Europe focuses its actions on restoring its **competitiveness** vis-à-vis other regions of the world that are undergoing tremendous developments. This is the assessment made by BUSINESSEUROPE members in the "European reform barometer".

### **Business calls for a boost to Europe**

Europe must seize the opportunity of the current business cycle upturn to **complete reforms** for growth and jobs and must not stop short, thereby repeating the mistakes of past recoveries. In a declaration in light of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties BUSINESSEUROPE calls for the **following actions**:

- Implement the reforms for **growth and jobs**
- Reinvigorate the integration of the **internal market**
- Complete the reform of the **EU governance**
- Fight national **protectionism**
- Take advantage of the opportunities of **enlargement**
- Reform **social systems** to make them sustainable

### **Reform to Perform: Europe needs to set its priorities**

It is essential that the EU now sets **clear objectives** to focus on the above priorities and shows a stronger **political commitment** for these reforms. By doing this we can make a success of a **reinvigorated Europe**.

*The BUSINESSEUROPE "European reform barometer" and the declaration of BUSINESSEUROPE in view of the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaties are available on [www.businessseurope.eu](http://www.businessseurope.eu).*

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