



26 November 2007

VISIT OF BUSINESSEUROPE PRESIDENT ERNEST-ANTOINE SEILLIÈRE AND BUSINESSEUROPE SECRETARY GENERAL PHILIPPE DE BUCK TO CONFEDERATION OF SWEDISH ENTERPRISE (SN)

11 DECEMBER 2007

MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME-MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY, MRS MAUD OLOFSSON

Issues to discuss:

- *The strategy for Growth and Jobs and BUSINESSEUROPE European Reform Barometer*
BUSINESSEUROPE warmly welcomed the relaunched of the Lisbon Strategy into the Strategy for Growth and Jobs in 2005 and in particular the adoption of country-specific recommendations as a major step forward. We asked for the reconfirmation of the four horizontal issues of the Lisbon Strategy: 1) R&D and innovation; 2) greater employability and investing in people; 3) a more dynamic business environment and 4) energy and climate change.
The European Reform Barometer is a project taken by BUSINESSEUROPE which provides with a comprehensive review of structural reform across the 27 EU member states based on a survey of BUSINESSEUROPE's national member federations. President Seillière and Secretary General de Buck will present to Minister Olofsson the key recommendations from the European business community to EU institutions and member states.
- *BUSINESSEUROPE SME Action Day*
BUSINESSEUROPE's Action Day "Thinking big!" on 21 November 2007 gathered entrepreneurs, business representatives, EU and national decision-makers to discuss the challenges faced by SMEs, their expectations, ambitions and demands to policy-makers. According to a survey conducted by KPMG for the SME Action Day, one out of two SMEs sets ambitious targets for growth: half of SMEs plan to achieve turnover growth of more than 10% over the next three to five years. If they reach their goals, this could result in the creation of an additional 2.5 million jobs. BUSINESSEUROPE invites the EU and Member States to think big for SMEs as well, for instance by reducing tax, regulatory barriers and red tape and increasing labour market flexibility. BUSINESSEUROPE will continue to act as an SME sounding board and make sure that the voice of small and medium-sized enterprises is heard.
- *Climate Change – (Bali Conference post-2012)*
The EU 20% reduction target adopted for greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 is a very ambitious one. With a view to ensuring a balanced international climate policy, the EU must take all appropriate initiatives to ensure that other industrialised regions contribute to climate protection with similar efforts to this EU's 20% target.



Pending a global agreement, the EU must adapt its internal instruments such as the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to ensure that they do not place unreasonable burdens on European companies operating on world markets.

- Energy efficiency
BUSINESSEUROPE is concerned about the enormous untapped potential of energy efficiency. EU industry is using energy up to five times more productively than industry in the big emerging economies. Many cost-effective solutions, developed by European companies, to reduce energy consumption are already available on the market. Therefore the right framework and positive incentives must be provided to spread these solutions in Europe and in the world. The EU must therefore strengthen the political weight it assigns to its 20% energy efficiency goal to help meet the other two targets on greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy in a cost-effective way.
