



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **RENEWED SOCIAL AGENDA MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH GROWTH AND JOBS STRATEGY AND FLEXICURITY PRINCIPLES**

Reacting to the Commission's renewed social agenda, BUSINESSEUROPE has always stressed the urgent need to modernise European social systems but is concerned that some of the Commission's proposals could undermine the Lisbon goals of enhancing growth and jobs.

European companies share the Commission's analysis that the EU social agenda should keep pace with changing realities in the economy and on the labour market.

However, with the proposal for a revised directive on European works councils the Commission has adopted a text which runs counter to its intention of having a social agenda that is responsive to change. The draft proposal creates far-reaching difficulties for companies and does not facilitate social dialogue. In a letter sent to EU Commissioners' Heads of Cabinets on 30 June, BUSINESSEUROPE expressed its strong concerns regarding the EWC proposal.

The Commission still has to demonstrate why there is a need to interfere in the everyday running of businesses with a new directive on non-discrimination regarding access to goods and services.

Companies call on the Commission to ensure that the new social agenda focuses on issues which are essential for competitiveness and job creation. Key among these is flexicurity. The EU should assist Member States to implement flexicurity policies in order to modernise their labour markets as suggested by the European social partners in the joint labour market analysis they presented last October.

BUSINESSEUROPE President Seillière: *"We recognise the need to modernise social systems in each of the Member States. But opportunities are created with a growing economy and sound labour markets. The social agenda must be implemented taking into account the principles of flexicurity."*

#### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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