



SPEAKING NOTES

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16 July 2008

BUSINESSEUROPE SEMINAR “DEFINING THE POST-2010 LISBON AGENDA”

16 JULY 2008, BRUSSELS

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The seminar “Defining the Lisbon Strategy after 2010” will be a brainstorming session to define BUSINESSEUROPE’s upcoming communication on the post-2010 Lisbon strategy and identify priorities.

It will provide essential inputs into our recommendations during the European Parliament elections and the formation of a new Commission in 2009.

Clear and unequivocal commitments to drive the reform agenda forward need to be received at European, national and regional levels, and BUSINESSEUROPE will work relentlessly to achieve this.

1. The post-2010 strategy needs to receive the highest backing from the next Commission President in order to ensure coherent initiatives to reinforce Europe in globalization, e.g. Lisbon strategy, global Europe, energy and climate change, social agenda. The issue of growth and jobs cannot be treated in isolation, but needs to be considered in all areas of EU policy-making.
2. Watering down reform objectives must be prevented. Key objectives must be to boost innovation, skills and entrepreneurship, on the basis of a fully functional single market and monetary union. We also need to achieve a better integration of environmental and industrial policies, and ensure an offensive international position on trade, energy and climate.
3. Policy instruments and in particular the EU budget must be modernised. We advocate in this regard a significant shift in resources towards research, innovation and adaptability, which should be made possible by further reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy.

4. The profile of the Lisbon Strategy in EU capitals must be boosted. The business community is ready to take part in a broad campaign to boost national ownership, but such campaign will only be successful if the communication strategy at European and national level is clear, convincing and explains the need for reform and expected economic returns. Increased public awareness and support are vital in order to secure ownership of national governments and to strengthen their reform efforts.

These are some initial considerations and I hope to hear from our panel and the audience challenging views on the way forward for the Lisbon strategy.

Following this seminar, BUSINESSEUROPE's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee, under the chairmanship of David Croughan, will take the lead in developing specific recommendations for the post-2010 strategy, working closely with other BUSINESSEUROPE policy committees.

The final report will be released after our Council of Presidents next December.

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