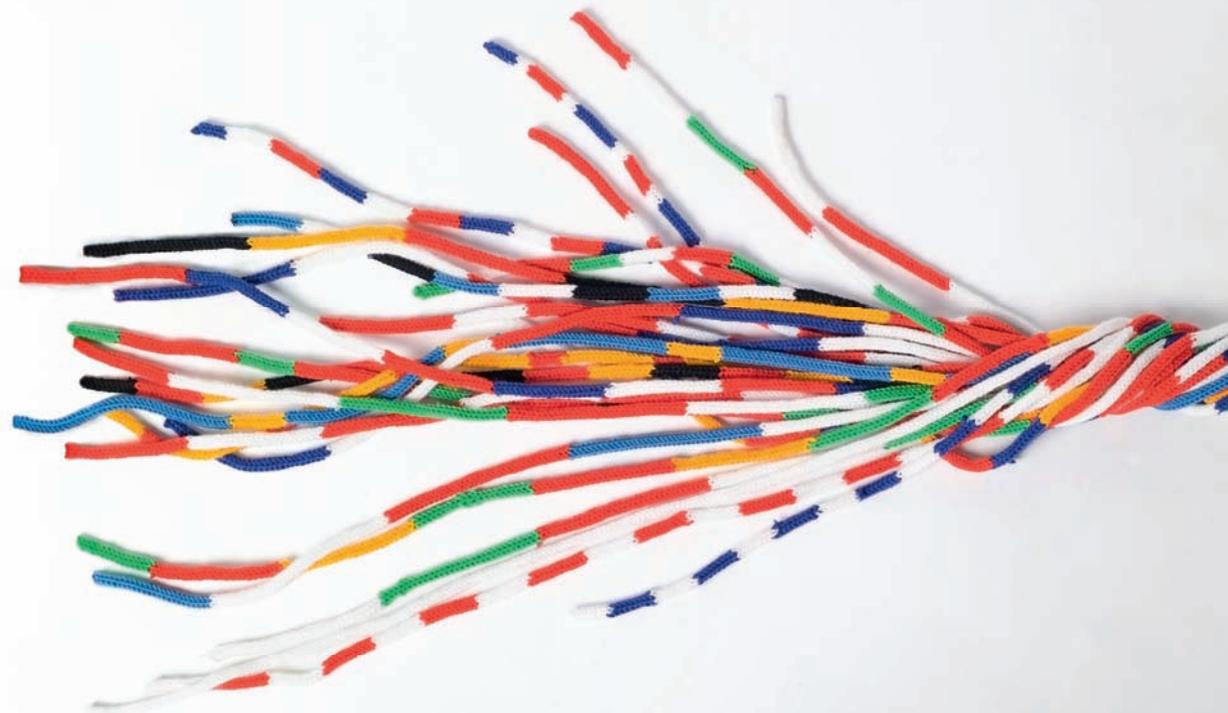


Unfolding Europe's future

WHAT COMPANIES EXPECT FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 2009-2014



Putting companies at the heart of the agenda

Companies are the main source of growth and job creation. Achieving environmental and social goals largely depends on their success.

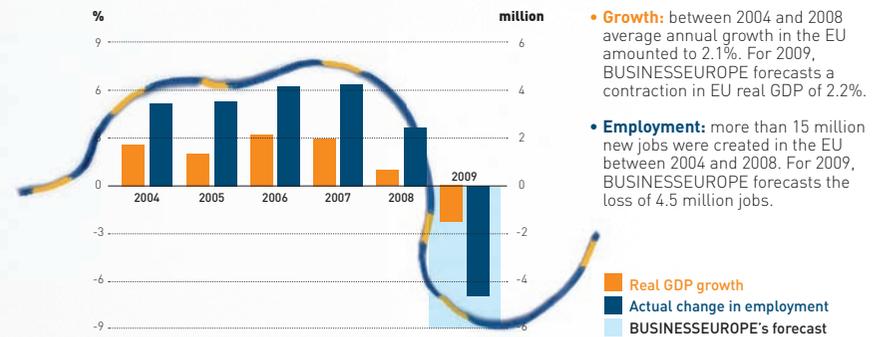
Entrepreneurs count on the European Parliament to put companies and their competitiveness at the heart of its agenda.

BUSINESSEUROPE encourages European entrepreneurs to go and vote in the European elections on 4-7 June 2009. Voting is the first step to improve the way in which Europe is governed.

Unfolding Europe's future requires an increase in dialogue between the European Parliament and the business community.

Boosting growth and employment

The European Union has brought many advantages to European companies and citizens over the years. However, since 2008, we are facing unprecedented economic difficulties due to the global financial and economic crisis.



THE EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD EASE THE WAY TO THE RECOVERY BY BUILDING ON ITS VALUES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

- Free movement of people, capital, goods and services in Europe is the foundation of our prosperity. These freedoms must be defended.
- The single market, the euro, the European growth and jobs strategy and our common foreign trade policy are strong growth and employment drivers. They must be mobilised.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MUST FOCUS ALL ITS ATTENTION IN 2009-2014 ON RESTORING THE CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT.

As parliamentarians you will face three types of challenges

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- GETTING OUT OF THE CRISIS
- RESTORING ACCESS TO CREDIT
- CONTINUING STRUCTURAL REFORMS
- IMPROVING COMPETITIVENESS
- DEVELOPING THE SINGLE MARKET
- FIGHTING PROTECTIONISM
- SHAPING GLOBALISATION

SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- MODERNISING SOCIAL PROTECTION
- PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR MARKETS
- ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLS

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- USING TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
- ENSURING ACCESS TO ENERGY
- NEGOTIATING A GLOBAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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www.buinessseurope.eu

The European Union should aim at sustainable solutions

ONLY INVESTMENT-DRIVEN GROWTH LASTS

The European Union should

- take measures to improve companies' access to finance and improve the functioning of financial markets;
- ensure the return to sustainable public finances in line with the stability and growth pact;
- pursue the reforms foreseen in the European strategy for growth and jobs;
- resist all forms of protectionism in Europe and in the world.

EUROPE'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON INNOVATION

The European Union should

- encourage investment in knowledge and facilitate private and public partnerships for research and development;
- strengthen the link between policies on education, training, and research to create positive spill-over effects;
- allocate sufficient resources for projects involving companies and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology;
- improve intellectual property protection, by creating an EU jurisdiction and adopting the Community patent.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs ARE THE SOURCE OF GROWTH AND JOBS

The European Union should

- implement the better regulation programme;
- adopt the small business act and the European private company statute;
- promote entrepreneurial spirit and beware of risk-averse attitudes;
- strengthen rules against late payments.

FLEXICURITY RECONCILES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOALS

The European Union should

- accompany companies and workers in their efforts to adapt to change and support lifelong learning;
- promote the creation of new activities, businesses and jobs rather than trying to safeguard activities from the past;
- encourage the development of flexible forms of work which help people to enter and stay in the labour market;
- encourage social dialogue and respect its autonomy.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND COMPETITIVENESS MUST GO HAND-IN-HAND

The European Union should

- put efficiency and diversification of energy sources at the heart of climate change policies;
- ensure a fair spread of climate change efforts between the different strands of society within Europe and different countries in the world;
- focus environmental policy on the implementation of existing rules;
- develop market-oriented initiatives to promote sustainable consumption and production.

Check out our page on pulling the EU out of the crisis on
www.buinesseurope.eu



We need a stronger and a more competitive European Union

No country will be able to get out of the present crisis on its own. We need a stronger Europe and a more competitive European Union.

As Members of the European Parliament you shape European policies. The Lisbon treaty opens the way to govern the EU more efficiently. You have the power to change things.

CONSIDER THAT:

- **success is not measured by the volume of legislation adopted but by real improvements in the lives of companies and citizens;**
- **smart and simple rules are more effectively implemented than complex and burdensome regulations;**
- **in-depth impact assessment throughout the decision-making process is indispensable to know what the effects are;**
- **coherence between different policy areas and consistency in implementation are essential.**

BUSINESSEUROPE is your partner

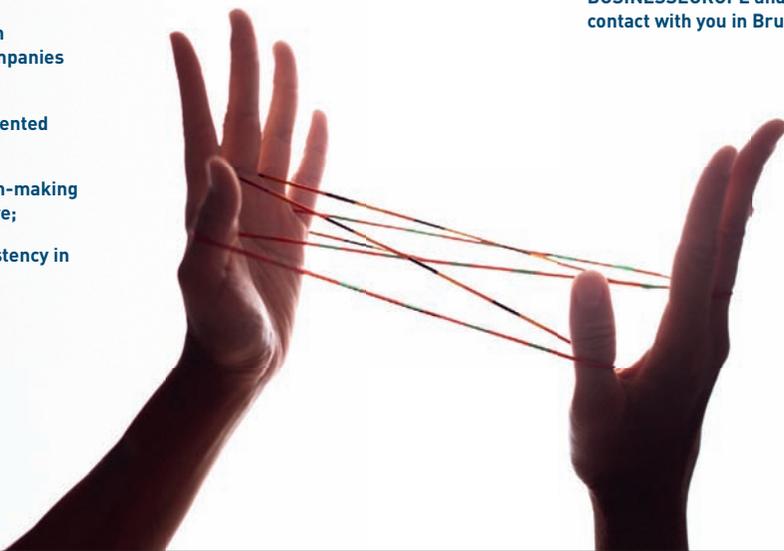
BUSINESSEUROPE is the leading European business organisation. With our **40 member federations**, we represent large, medium and small enterprises across all sectors of activity in **34 European countries**.

We support Members of the European Parliament in their efforts to promote growth and jobs. Analysing the consequences of policy decisions for European companies is an important part of our mission.

BUSINESSEUROPE and its member federations look forward to being in contact with you in Brussels, in Strasbourg and in your constituency !

BUSINESSEUROPE


Contact us at
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