

BUSINESSEUROPE



Thematic Visit

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

South England Local Partners

BUSINESSEUROPE - Who we are



The voice of European companies


- The Confederation of European Business
 - Represents European companies of all sizes
 - Recognised European social partner
- Achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe
- Lobby for a business-friendly environment

BUSINESSEUROPE priorities

- Implement the reforms for growth and jobs
- Integrate the European market
- Govern the EU efficiently
- Shape globalisation and fight all kinds of protectionism
- Promote a secure, competitive and climate-friendly energy system
- Reform European social systems to respond to global challenges



40 members in 34 countries

							 Confederation of Danish Industry
Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Denmark
							
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland
							
Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Montenegro
							
Norway	Poland	Portugal	Portugal	Rep. San Marino	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia
							
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland	The Netherlands	Turkey	Turkey	United Kingdom



Work process

- seven main policy committees
- experts nominated by our members
- follow-up and influence EU legislation
- find consensus view of impact on enterprises
- about 100 position papers each year
- permanent staff actively represents these views

***BUSINESSEUROPE -
Promoting entrepreneurship,
fighting for strong SMEs***



Sharp recession is drawing to a close ...

Factors supporting a rise in confidence

- Govt. and central banks stimuli working their way
- End of fast inventory depletion in industry
- Pick up in export orders, particularly from Asia

... but recovery will be subdued and fragile



No recovery without entrepreneurs

- Advocate an SME-friendly dimension for all relevant community policies
- Coherent implementation of the “Think Small First” principle.
- Remove existing barriers in the Single Market, cut administrative burdens:
 - Regulatory obstacles
 - Incorrect enforcement
 - Labour-market rigidities (insufficient mobility of workers, lack of skilled workforce)
 - Difficult access to finance and procurement opportunities



The “Small Business Act” – time for action

Adoption: December 2008

- 4 legislative proposals:
 - Reduced VAT (OK)
 - Block exemptions (OK)
 - Late payments
 - European Private Company statute

- 10 principles

⇒ Effective implementation will be key

⇒ Member states’ implementation efforts must be assessed and compared (“naming and faming”)



Further challenges – companies access to finance

- **European Investment Bank**
 - €70 billion of loans for 2009, pilot projects for risk-sharing schemes
 - Working capital: EIB steps in for SMEs
- **Central banks**
 - BoE expands quantitative easing strategy
 - ECB adopted non-conventional measures
- **European Commission**
 - State Aid rules and the crisis
 - Financial reforms
 - European Economic Recovery Plan



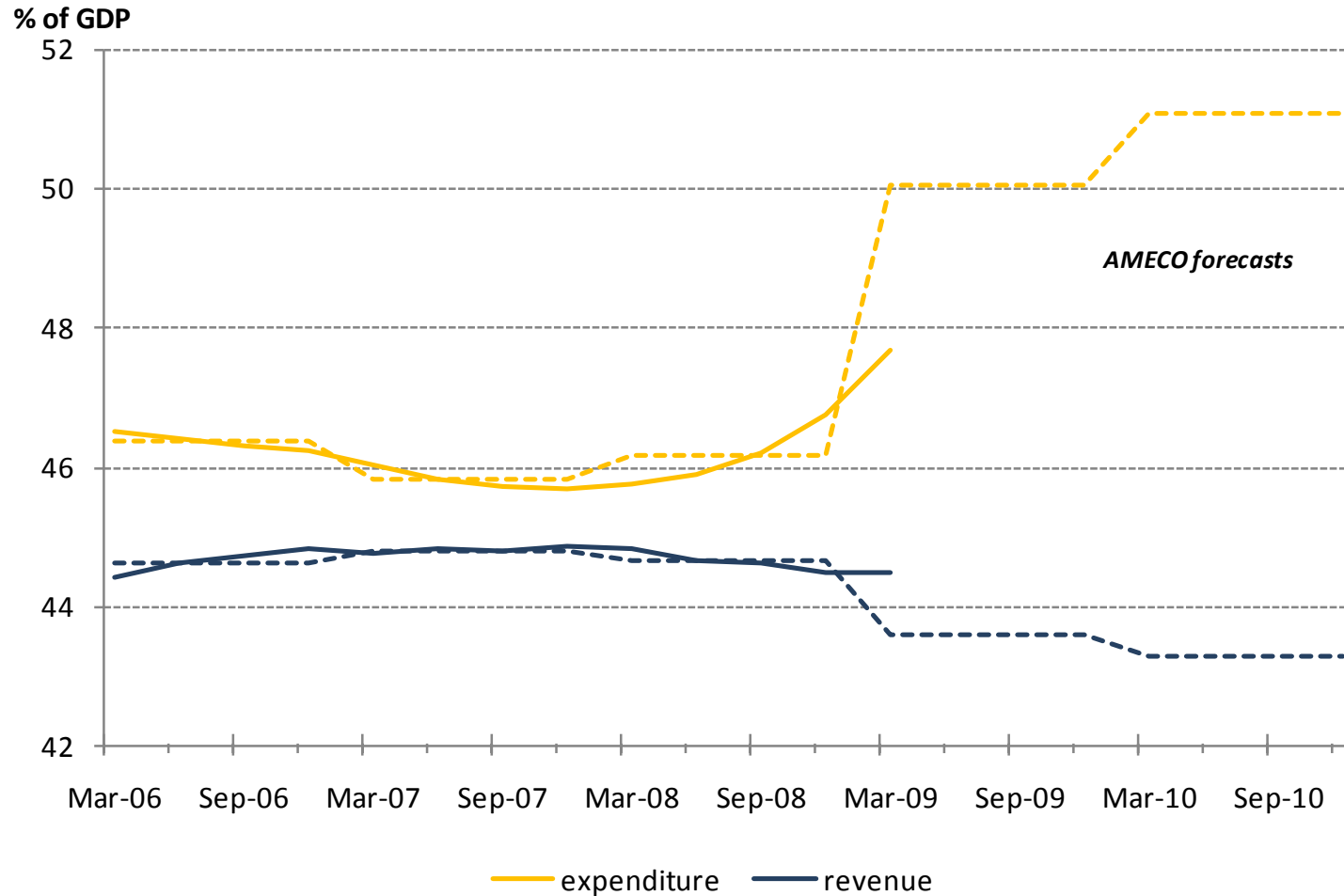
Some room for improvement

- Better coordinate actions at European level
 - avoid damages to the internal market
 - create real synergies
- Implement principles in the Small Business Act without delay to improve SMEs' situation
- Prioritise measures with limited impact on public finances but significant results, e.g.
 - reduce payment delays, esp. public authorities
 - make rapid progress as regards Better Regulation



Medium-term challenges

1. Sustainability of public finances

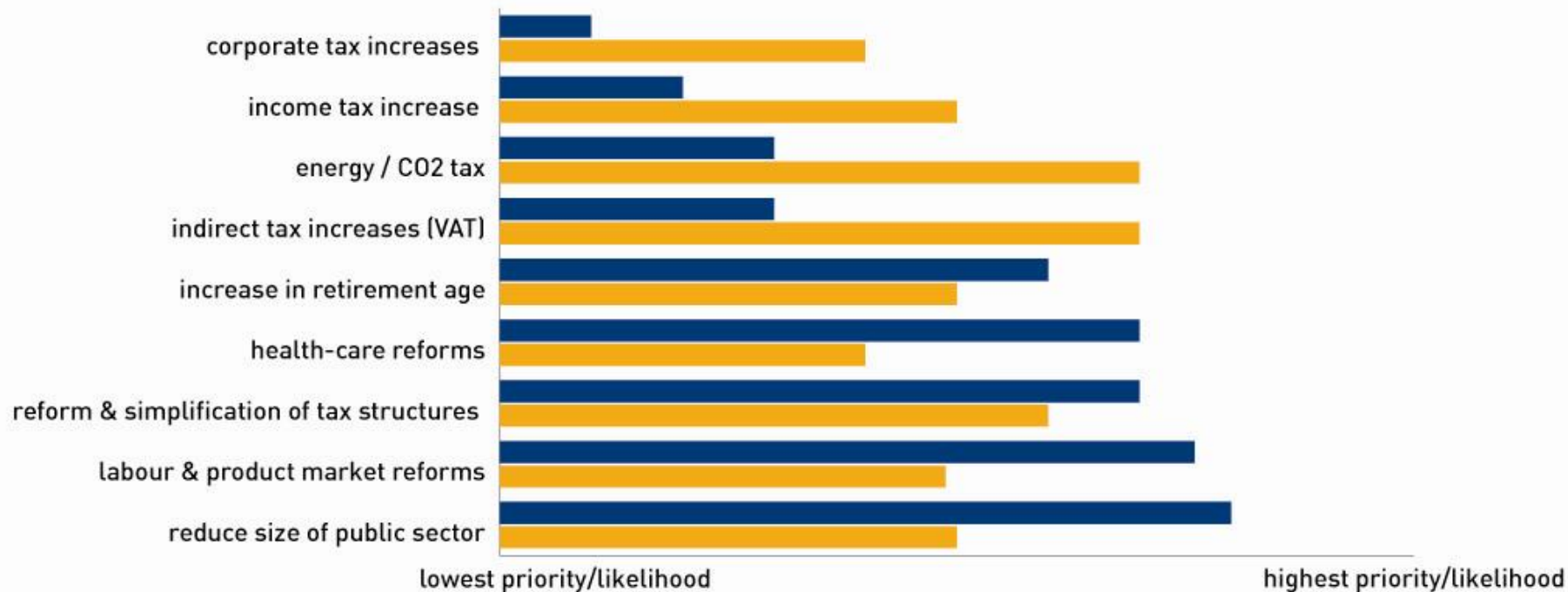


Source: BUSINESSEUROPE, AMECO, Eurostat



Diverging perceptions on how to ensure fiscal sustainability

- priority actions asked for by BUSINESSEUROPE member federations
- most likely government measures expected by BUSINESSEUROPE member federations



2. Structural reforms

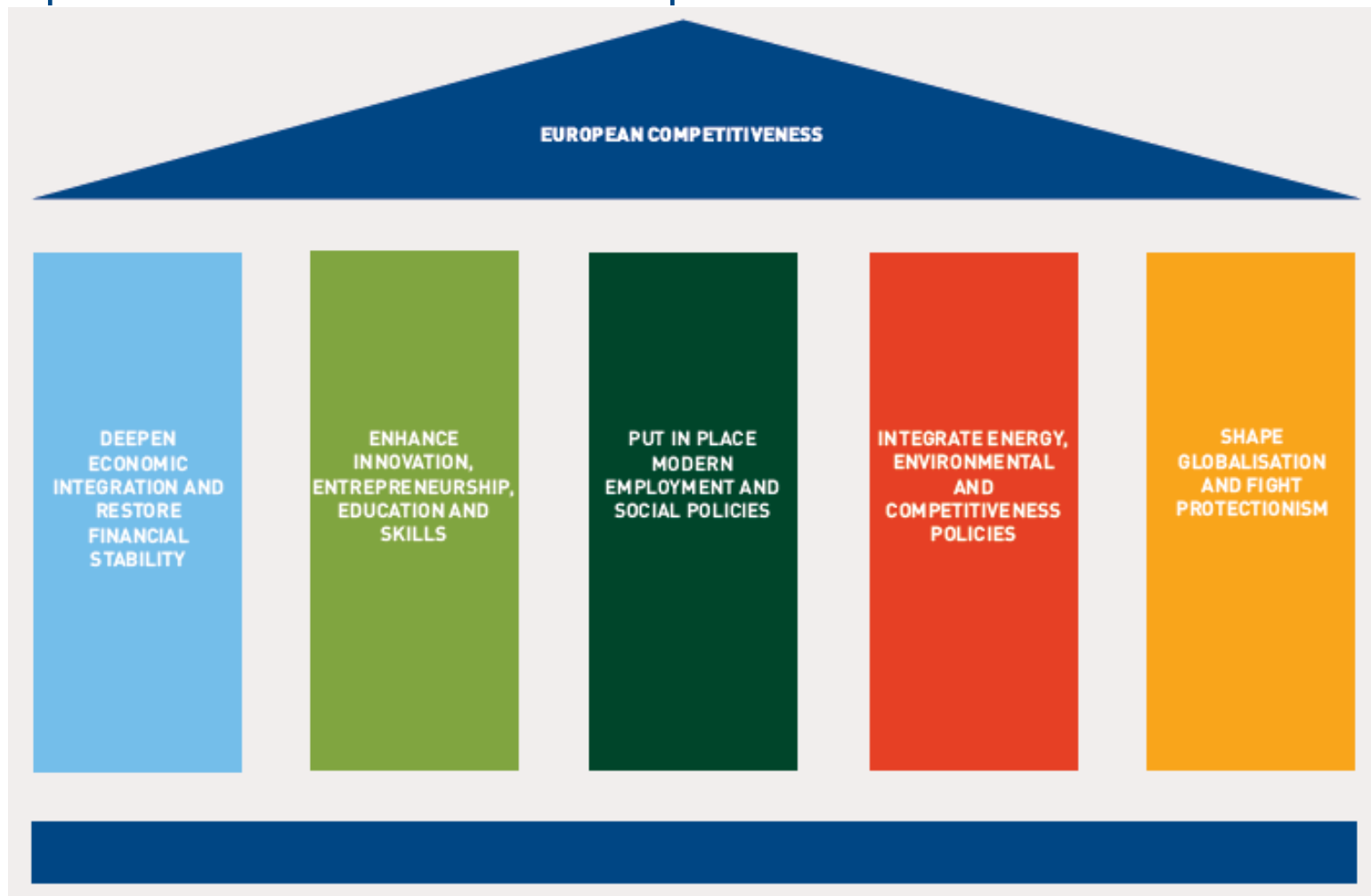
- Support business investment, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Fight unemployment boost education and skills for the recovery
- Modernise the public sector and increase sustainability of social systems

⇒ Essential aspects of a future reform strategy



BUSINESSEUROPE's priorities for the "new" Lisbon Strategy

Five pillars for the EU's future competitiveness



Further information

www.business europe.eu

