BUSINESSEUROPE

SPEECH

INFORMAL COUNCIL FOR THE COPENHAGEN PROCESS
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BUSINESSEUROPE would like to congratulate the Belgian EU Presidency for a balanced Bruges review and the communiqué that is to be launched today.

We appreciate in particular the working group that was set up to that end and hope that this will serve as a model for upcoming reviews of European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET).

The Bruges communiqué responds well to the expectations of companies on the priorities for this cooperation for the next ten years.

However, it is important that the political ambitions are not moving too far ahead in relation to the actual implementation. We have already seen the launch of a series of transparency and cooperation tools, and several more are in the pipeline. These need to be turned into reality and properly evaluated before new tools are added.

For companies, the shift towards a learning outcome approach in national credit and qualification systems (as outlined in the eighth short-term deliverable) is a key priority. Such a shift will not only promote mobility between different education systems, it will also facilitate transitions between the worlds of education and work. Closely linked to this is also the development of procedures for validation of non-formal and informal learning. However, not highlighted here is the need to boost the attractiveness of VET through increased quality and relevance.

As a final remark, I wish to underline the importance of a strong cooperation between the different governance structures of these tools, as well as with the concerned actors at national and local level. Without stakeholders on the bandwagon, the ambitions will fail to materialise.

From BUSINESSEUROPE's side, we are committed to continue to contribute to the development of European cooperation in VET in the many steering groups, working groups and committees where we are currently active.

Thank you for your attention.

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