



29 April 2011

### **CONFERENCE ON 2012 EUROPEAN YEAR FOR ACTIVE AGEING AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS 29 APRIL 2011**

BUSINESSEUROPE supports the European year of active ageing and we hope that employers and business organizations can contribute with good experiences and practical knowledge.

European labour markets will see major demographic changes with fewer people active on the labour market compared to a growing number of people in retirement. This will have an impact on companies, which always need a supply of skilled people to remain competitive.

To deal with these major demographic changes, BUSINESSEUROPE advocates longer working lives. Active ageing is an important part of this. It is therefore the right moment to dedicate a special year to the issue to raise awareness at a time when our workforce will start to shrink.

In BUSINESSEUROPE we are currently discussing how we may be involved in the European year. Therefore it is too early to give concrete details.

But our member federations are already getting involved at national level in several member states, planning different projects and activities. In some cases this is together with national trade unions, national governments and other stakeholders.

For example some national employers' organizations are currently planning activities in relation to adaptable work places and human resources policies in order to promote longer working lives by ensuring that older workers can remain on the labour market.

The Confederation of Danish Employers, DA, for example, is planning an event together with Danish trade unions on the young peoples' entry into labour market. The European year will not just be about active ageing but also about solidarity between generations.

The European Social Partners will this year present the first implementation report on their agreement on inclusive labour markets. While the agreement does not focus on specific groups, clearly, making the most of the potential of older workers is key to achieving inclusive labour markets. It is therefore possible that some national social partners may touch on this issue.