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BUSINESSEUROPE LAUNCHES ITS OWN YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

Youth unemployment currently stands at more than 20% in the European Union. European companies are convinced that this high number of young people without work stands in sharp contrast to the real potential of the young generation.

Therefore, at the request of the European Commission, BUSINESSEUROPE has set up a task force in order to get more apprenticeships. It will look at concrete proposals on how the EU can better support apprenticeships/dual learning systems through the use of EU funds.

This work will deliver a business contribution to the implementation of the Youth Opportunities Initiative that will be published by the European Commission tomorrow. This policy can only be put in place with the participation of all the relevant actors.

Philippe de Buck, BUSINESSEUROPE's Director General said: *"It is not acceptable that more than one out of five young people is unemployed. To support the transition from education to work we need to increase the offer of apprenticeships based on employment and learning. Our task force will look at this and start working in January. It aims to report back to the Tripartite Social Summit in March 2012."*

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE's members are 41 leading industrial and employers' federations from 35 European countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe. For the full list of our members, please visit our website.

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