



29 February 2012

### **BUSINESSEUROPE's 2012 EUROPEAN REFORM BAROMETER HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO FOCUS ON REFORM IMPLEMENTATION**

Ahead of the March European Council, BUSINESSEUROPE today published its 2012 European Reform Barometer. It provides both a qualitative assessment of reform progress against Member Federations' priorities and a quantitative, indicator-based assessment.

The report reaches the following conclusions:

- While a number of Member States made important reform progress in the final months of 2011, implementation of structural reforms during much of the year was disappointing. Member States must build on recent reform momentum during 2012;
- The European Commission played an important role in providing adequate country-specific recommendations;
- Consolidation of public finance and improvements in the efficiency of the public sector are businesses' key priorities for 2012;
- Access to capital has become a much more pressing priority for business;
- Reform of pension, health and wage bargaining systems continues to be a priority for well functioning labour markets.

Setting out businesses' message to the March European Council, Philippe de Buck, Director General, BUSINESSEUROPE said, "*The European economy has reached a crossroads. The economic policy decisions made in 2012 will determine both the course of the immediate recovery and the longer-term underlying growth prospects of our continent. We must not allow an acute crisis to become a chronic story of low growth.*"

BUSINESSEUROPE's Reform Barometer and detailed country sheets can be found on our website: [www.businessseurope.eu](http://www.businessseurope.eu)

#### 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.*

For further information, please contact: Peter Vertessy +32(0)2 237.65.03  
[www.businessseurope.eu](http://www.businessseurope.eu)