BUSINESSEUROPE

PRESS RELEASE

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NO TIME TO WASTE: EUROPE MUST CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF REFORMS TO GET TO SAFE WATERS!

"Europe is entering into a critical phase of its recovery. There are signs of improvement but we are walking on thin ice. The pendulum can quickly swing back if doubts about the ability to pursue necessary reforms in the European Union re-emerge. The European Council and the EU Commission must ensure that the 2013 European Semester strengthens implementation of structural reforms to support growth and job creation" – said BUSINESSEUROPE President Jürgen R. Thumann

"To underpin the reform efforts required in Member States, the European Council and the EU Commission must really refocus the EU agenda on competitiveness. Developing the Single Market, using it as a spring board for access to global markets, and supporting the re-industrialisation of Europe will create breathing space. Companies and citizens are still suffering after five years of crisis. The window of opportunity to give them for a better future is narrow. We must act now" – added BUSINESSEUROPE Director General Markus J. Beyrer

In its message to the 14-15 March 2013 European Council BUSINESSEUROPE warns Heads of State and Government that unless Europe focuses on policy measures increasing competitiveness, building business confidence and boosting economic activity the post-crisis divergence in growth performance that emerged in 2012 between the EU and other major economies can become a long-term phenomenon.

BUSINESSEUROPE's 2013 Reform Barometer – published on the eve of the European Council - has identified five key areas for structural reforms: 1. taxation and public finances; 2. business environment; 3. innovation and skills; 4. access to finance and financial stability, and 5. the reform of the labour markets.

BUSINESSEUROPE's analysis shows that there is no time to waste. Our 41 member federations urge EU Member States to continue pressing ahead with structural reforms during 2013 and live up to their commitments made in the context of the European semester. In order to be able to make the investments essential for long-term growth, companies need to be confident that leaders are committed to policies that support competitiveness and economic stability – the survey says.

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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