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### **BUSINESSEUROPE URGES THE 22 MAY 2013 EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO FOCUS ON LIFTING OBSTACLES TO GROWTH**

*“If Europe wants to achieve its 20 % industrial GDP target and create 400,000 new jobs a year in manufacturing, with further jobs in related services, the European Union must re-shape our energy and climate policies to tackle high energy prices and reflect on the very limited progress in global climate talks.” – said President Jürgen R. Thumann.*

BUSINESSEUROPE has commissioned a [study](#) on the impact of current EU energy and climate policies. This study shows that electricity price for industrial consumers in the EU is 1.5 to 3 times higher than in industrial states in the US. Renewable policies, carbon pricing and the structure of the electricity market play a significant role in driving prices up in Europe. The EU 2030 energy and climate framework must refocus EU policies on supporting technological development and investment as well as on developing the internal market for energy. In this context, BUSINESSEUROPE believes in the value of market-based instruments such as the ETS.

*“Businesses paid over € 1.5 trillion in taxes in 2011. This is more than 28% of all tax revenues. The only sustainable way to increase tax revenues is to generate more growth and more jobs. Fiscal consolidation should be accompanied by growth enhancing reforms and focus primarily on reductions in current public expenditure, protecting investment, not tax rises. Fraud and tax evasion distort competition and penalise law-abiding firms. We fully support the objective of combatting abuse. But we also ask to reconsider proposals which undermine growth and jobs such as the financial transaction tax” – added Markus J. Beyrer, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE.*

Cooperation between tax authorities should be shaped so as to reduce the cost and complexity of tax systems and support economic development. Member States must not infringe the taxation rights of other countries and limit their taxation claims to what internationally accepted rules such as the Arm's Length Pricing call for in order to avoid double taxation. Countries outside Europe must be involved as Europe cannot address this issue unilaterally.

*“We will not be able to spend or borrow our way out the crisis. But we can grow out of this crisis. To build a sustainable foundation of future growth and restore confidence, we also need the Council to agree on a specific and time-bound roadmap for further strengthening the Euro drawing on President Van Rompuy's report and a swift adoption of key EU proposals such as the banking union” – said President Jürgen R. Thumann.*

#### 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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