YEARS OF BUSINESS FOR EUROPE 1958 - 2018
Who are we?

BUSINESSEUROPE is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at the European level, standing up for companies across the continent and campaigning on the issues that most influence their performance. A recognised social partner, we speak for all-sized enterprises in 34 European countries whose national business federations are our direct members.

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The European business community has supported the European integration process from the very start, already during the negotiation process for the Treaties of Rome. Right after these Treaties came into force, the leading business federations of the six initial member states, on 28 February 1958, founded the “Union des Industries de la Communauté Européenne - UNICE” with the aim of accompanying the political process launched by the Treaties of Rome. On 1 March 1958, the first meeting of UNICE (since 2007 BusinessEurope) took place.

This booklet, which has been produced to commemorate the 60th anniversary of BusinessEurope (formerly UNICE), outlines the milestones in the history of both BusinessEurope and the European Union. The timeline you will find inside the booklet demonstrates that Europe has been our core business since 1958 and that business often set the pace for further European integration. We called for an Economic and Monetary Union already in 1973 and welcomed the start of the European Monetary System in 1979. We insisted on a genuine internal market in 1984 and very much supported the adoption of the Single European Act two years later.

The Val Duchesse process on European social dialogue in the 1980s finally led to the role of European social partners being enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, making BusinessEurope a recognised Social Partner at the European level.

Opening up new markets and promoting free, rules-based trade and multilateralism has always been one of our key objectives. This progress was facilitated by our close cooperation with leading business federations on other continents, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce or the Japanese Keidanren.

Europe is one of the best places in which to live, work and do business in the world, and this could not have been achieved without the European Union. Business has a key role to play in making sure that our model will continue to thrive and prevail with the current global competition between different approaches to economic and social development. The European business community embraces its responsibilities towards society as a whole and stands ready to support policy-makers in taking further steps, for instance deepening the European Economic and Monetary Union, to ensure continuous European success.

BusinessEurope and its member federations are committed to contributing positively to a successful future on this journey.
60 years of business since 1958

- 1958: Business since 1958
- 1990: UNICE calls for common currency
- 1991: Agreement on EU Social Dialogue
- 1992: Treaty of Maastricht
- 1994: World Trade Organization
- 1995: UNICE welcomes creation of WTO
- 1999: UNICE supports EU enlargement
- 2000: Company survey on Single Market
- 2001-2003: Reunification of Europe
- 2002: UNICE participates as observer
- 2004: Report "Fit with the Euro"
- 2004-2013: Reunification of Europe
- 2005: UNICE becomes BUSINESSEUROPE
- 2007: Call for EU industrial policy
- 2008: Four Presidents’ Report
- 2012: Company survey on Single Market
- 2014: High-level Business Summit on energy and climate change in Paris
- 2015: European Convention
- 2017: European Commission’s new industrial policy strategy
- 2018: 60 years of Rome Treaties

2018
The FEB is the Belgian member of BusinessEurope and one of its founding fathers. During its first years, BusinessEurope was even housed in our offices and over the last 60 years we had the honour of having 3 Belgian Presidents of BusinessEurope. 

FEB President Bernard Gilliot - FEB-VBO
UNICE’s first mention in the press [28 February 1958]
Commission Pres. Delors shows the way towards social dialogue (1986 with UNICE President Ratjen and DG Tyszkiewicz)

UNICE Pres. Ferrer and Commission Vice-President Andriessen (1990)
2018 marks the 60th anniversary of BusinessEurope. ETUC congratulates the business community on this important birthday. In 1991, our agreement on the creation of a Europe-wide social dialogue has been a crucial milestone. We look forward to making further progress in shaping an EU which delivers sustainable growth, quality employment and social cohesion for everyone.

General Secretary Luca Visentini - ETUC

Agreement on EU Social Dialogue
[1991]
40th anniversary of UNICE (1998 with Director de Liedekerke, Commission Pres. Santer, UNICE Presidents Jacobs and Perigot)


1998-2002

President Giscard d’Estaing invites UNICE to be part of the European Convention (2002)
2004

Competitiveness Day in the European Parliament (2004 with Presidents Strube, Trichet and Cordero di Montezemolo)

Signature of the European social partners’ agreement to combat workplace-related stress (2004)

Business pushes for further integration of the internal market (company survey 2004)
We are honoured to be a member of an institution which defines itself to be an advocate for growth and competitiveness. BusinessEurope follows the vision of a globally competitive EU in order to create the prosperity that both businesses and citizens benefit from – a goal which can better be achieved with a common voice for companies across the continent.

Director General Christoph Neumayer - IV

2006


Council of Presidents (2006 in IV’s Grosser Festsaal in Vienna)
Our name change: UNICE becomes BusinessEurope (2007 with Pres. Seillière and DG de Buck)

2007

Our strong support for the euro and Economic & Monetary Union confirmed in 2007
Over six decades, BusinessEurope has grown to become the preeminent voice of European businesses across the continent. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce values our close partnership in advancing strong and vibrant transatlantic trade and investment ties based on free enterprise and support for the global rules-based trading system. We congratulate BusinessEurope and look forward to continued collaboration in the years ahead.

Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Rarely has Europe witnessed so unstable times; it is thus pivotal to maintain a healthy dialogue and ensure that all stakeholders are heard, and this is the main role of BusinessEurope today.

President Henryka Bochniarz - Lewiatan

Audience with King Juan Carlos I of Spain
(2010 with Pres. Thumann)

Presentation of “Go for Growth” to EP Pres. Buzek

Council of Presidents with His Royal Highness, Prince Philippe of Belgium (2010 with FEB-VBO Pres. Leysen, Pres. Thumann)
The European Social Partners are invited to speak to the College of Commissioners (2013 with Pres. Barroso and Commissioners)

“You cannot be a winning region or company in a losing continent. This is what Europe is all about”

Hans Skov Christensen
1945 – 2013
Member and “Doyen” of BUSINESSEUROPE’s Executive Committee for 25 years
Both Keidanren and BusinessEurope have long been maintaining a close relationship in tackling global issues through the B7 and strengthening Japan-Europe economic ties. The recent finalisation of the Japan-EU trade negotiations is proof of our joint efforts such as the sector-to-sector dialogue on regulatory cooperation. We at Keidanren commemorate the 60th anniversary of BusinessEurope and look forward to pursuing together a rule-based, free and open international economic order.

Director General Masakazu Kubota - Keidanren
Our strength originates from the common goal – to build the European Union as a powerhouse of industry innovations, driven by a smart utilisation of the 4th industrial revolution, building on the benefits of economic, intellectual and scientific potential. We salute BusinessEurope on its 60th anniversary!

President Robertas Dargis, Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists - Lithuanian Confederation of Industries

2015

BusinessEurope Day 2015 (welcoming Commission VP Katainen)...

BusinessEurope Day ‘Invest in Europe’ (2015 with President Juncker)

...and with First Vice-President Timmermans and DG Beyrer (2015)
Having a collective ambition, setting a common vision and then acting together. This is BusinessEurope’s mission. We must be enthusiastic and optimistic for future generations.

President Pierre Gattaz - MEDEF

The BusinessEurope team (2015) at Presidential reception


International Business Summit at the COP 21 meeting in Paris (2015)
The voice of BusinessEurope has an important role in EU decision-making. It’s the only way to influence the decisions as fragmented interests can always be ignored.

Chairman Toomas Tamsar - Estonian Employers’ Confederation

The High Representative of the Union, Commission VP Mogherini at the BusinessEurope Day dinner (2016)

BusinessEurope Day (2016 with Dutch PM Rutte)

Council of Presidents in the Netherlands (2016 with His Majesty King Willem-Alexander)
European Business Summit (2016 with EP President Schulz)

Presidents Tusk and Marcegaglia (2016)

Commissioner Cañete and DG Beyrer (2016)


2016-2017

President Marcegaglia and EP President Tajani (2017)
BusinessEurope declaration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome (2017)

2017

60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome
During these years we fought together to put industry at the centre of European policies. And we will do so in the future with the common goal of creating a better, more competitive and integrated Europe.

President Vincenzo Boccia - Confindustria

60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome
Only a unified Europe will be successful on the global scene. BusinessEurope represents the interests of freedom and competitiveness in Europe. It is an indispensable voice for open and rules-based markets in the world.

President Dieter Kempf - BDI
### Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Léon Bekaert</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1958-1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Georges Villiers</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>1961-1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr H.J. de Koster</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1962-1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Fritz Berg</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1967-1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Paul Huvelin</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>1971-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Pol Provost</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1975-1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Guido Carli</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1981-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ray Pennock</td>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>1984-1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Karl-Gustav Ratjen</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1986-1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Carlos Ferrer</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1990-1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr François Perigot</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>1994-1998</td>
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<td>Mr Georges Jacobs</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1998-2003</td>
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<td>Directors General</td>
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<td><strong>Mrs Hilde Claessens</strong></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1958-1974</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Bernard Sassen</strong></td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1974-1984</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Zygmunt Tyszkiewicz</strong></td>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>1984-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Dirk Hudig</strong></td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>1998-2001</td>
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<td><strong>Mrs Daniela Israelachwili</strong></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mr Philippe de Buck</strong></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2002-2012</td>
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<td><strong>Mr Markus J. Beyrer</strong></td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2012-present</td>
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| **Mr Jürgen F. Strube** | Germany | 2003-2005 |
| **Mr E.-A. Seillière** | France | 2005-2009 |
| **Mr Jürgen Thumann** | Germany | 2009-2013 |
| **Mrs Emma Marcegaglia** | Italy | 2013-present |