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### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: A TOOL FOR BETTER AND COST-EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

BUSINESSEUROPE supports the Commission Communication on the advantages of public-private partnerships published today. The combination of public and private expertise and resources will help find responses to today's serious economic, environmental and demographic challenges.

Good public services must be at the heart of the EU and national policies. Ensuring cost-effectiveness, efficiency and quality of public services is being put to the test by drastic constraints on public finances. Experience has shown that public-private partnerships can improve productivity, deliver better quality and provide contractual guarantees.

Philippe de Buck, BUSINESSEUROPE's Director-General said: *"In 2010 public deficits will reach 7.5% of GDP and public indebtedness 80% of GDP in EU27. More than ever public authorities must find innovative solutions to meet society's expectations and needs. Joining forces with the private sector can alleviate pressure on public finances and provide the necessary investments for future growth"*.

#### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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