



6 December 2011

### **BUSINESSEUROPE SUPPORTS EU COMMISSION INITIATIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF VAT**

The Communication from the European Commission sets out an ambitious roadmap for a simpler, more robust and efficient Value Added Tax (VAT).  
BUSINESSEUROPE in particular supports:

- greater involvement of business in the legal process and practical implementation. In this regard, a new EU VAT forum would benefit from the participation of business representatives together with Member States and the Commission;
- the decision to make the mini One-Stop-Shop fully operational by 2015. Under this scheme, suppliers will be enabled to fulfill their VAT obligations in their home Member State, including for services provided in other Member States where they are not established;
- the goal of setting up an EU VAT web portal to ensure that businesses have easy access to accurate and reliable information on VAT-legislation in EU.

More efforts should be made to simplify and harmonise the current VAT system, as basis for further steps.

Therefore, BUSINESSEUROPE cannot support the introduction of the split-payment system. Such a system, in which the purchaser pays the VAT to a blocked VAT bank account, requires high investments and BUSINESSEUROPE finds that discussions should be postponed until a point in time when the basic preconditions are in place.

Kristian Koktvedgaard, Chair of the VAT Working Group said: *“The VAT system is of great importance to business due to the significant impact on day-to-day business. The present system is in danger of becoming a real obstacle to cross-border activity. We are ready to support the initiatives to reach a simple and efficient VAT-system based on the destination principle. I believe we have a common goal and we look forward to work with the Commission and the Member States in the future.”*

#### 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.businesseurope.eu](http://www.businesseurope.eu)