

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS: COMMISSION'S EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY LACKS SENSE OF URGENCY**

European social partners met EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioner László Andor today to discuss the economic and public debt crisis. They also presented their Joint Statement on the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Joint Statement reinforces the social dialogue at both the European and national level, and puts the emphasis on an ambitious growth strategy as a key way to foster recovery

European employers feel that a sense of urgency is missing from the Europe 2020 strategy.

Europe is lagging behind in the global economic recovery. The Europe 2020 strategy must put Europe on a sustained growth path, ensure a rapid return to more and better jobs while securing fiscal sustainability.

The European social partners' Joint Statement calls for an increase in the EU growth rate to an average of at least 2 % in the coming years. This could translate into 6.5 million additional jobs and a public debt consolidation of 450 billion Euros.

BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME and CEEP have asked President Barroso to convey this message to his entire team in the Commission, to the European Council and to national governments.

A copy of the full version of the Joint Statement is [available online](#).

*BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents 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.*

*UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 85 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees.*

*CEEP gathers enterprises and organisations from across Europe, both public and private, at national, regional and local level, which are public employers or providers of services of general interest. CEEP represents more than 500 000 enterprises employing more than 64 million people and contributing directly to more than 26% of the EU GDP.*

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