



*European Economic and Social Committee  
Employers' Group*



**Conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of the EESC Employers'  
Group on 16 June 2009**

**Bucharest declaration**

The aim of the extraordinary meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee's Employers' Group, organised jointly with our partners and friends from the Alliance of Romanian Employers' Confederations (ACPR), was to draw the attention of European decision-makers to the need to increase – *and not to reduce, as some are already suggesting* – investment in the European Union. In this difficult "post-European-election" period, the challenge of a bold European investment strategy is not only economic and financial, but also political: put simply, this challenge is to win back the trust of European citizens.

It will take time for the positive effects to be felt by economic operators and European citizens, and Europe's employers therefore call for the following measures to be implemented without delay:

- to invest massively in modernising transport, communications and energy distribution infrastructures, focusing particularly on the objectives of a low-carbon economy;
- to set up trans-European public-private partnerships designed to promote research, innovation and retraining, for example in certain economic sectors that have been particularly hard hit (both manufacturers and subcontractors), such as the construction, automobile, chemical and steel industries;
- to make smart investments in training, research and education, striving to forge better links between business and the education, training and research systems;
- to simplify and speed up the provision of EU financing, whether from the Structural or Cohesion Funds, the EIB or the EIF. The new Member States need the EUR 23bn that the EU has granted them in order to fund the construction of

key infrastructures, as these countries have been particularly affected by the crisis and, in some cases, their coffers are virtually empty;

- to cut the red tape faced by businesses so that they can focus on creating wealth, jobs, innovation and research; and to restructure public administration in order to reach efficiency and to create a better environment for business.
  - In the light of today's burgeoning public deficits, the Employers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee regrets that the European resources freed up in order to fund the various recovery plans can not always be supplemented by European loans or investment funds modelled on foreign Sovereign Wealth Funds.
  - Lastly, the Employers' Group therefore calls for greater cooperation among the 27 Member States in order to boost jobs, recovery and investment in education, innovation, trans-European networks and clean technology.
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