

## **Time for the Commission to act on family businesses** Parliament

08 September 2015

**BRUSSELS** – The European Parliament plenary has approved its own-initiative report on family businesses in Europe. The report *'recognises that family businesses are the single biggest source of employment in the private sector and that therefore what is beneficial to continuity, renewal and growth in the family business sector is conducive to continuity, renewal and growth in the European economy.'* In addition, the report highlights the major challenges facing family companies in Europe and makes concrete recommendations for both European and National policy makers to undertake. Concretely the report calls for a better understating of the family business through better statistics and data. In addition, the report calls for the introduction of family business test that can be applied *'in order to be able to determine the effect of certain legal acts on family businesses in advance and thereby avoid unnecessary red tape and burdensome hurdles for family businesses, focusing particularly on the combined effects of company law and private law.'*

### **Time for the Commission to act**

*'This report by the Parliament should act as a wakeup call for the Commission to do more for family business. Simply equating family businesses to SMEs, which has been so far the case, does a disservice to both categories'* said Roger Pedder, President of EFB, adding that *'thanks to Angelika Niebler's report there is a stronger, broad and renewed political will for action to assist in the recognition and development of the family business sector in Europe. EFB fully supports the Parliament in its endeavour and we encourage the Commission to act accordingly, starting with the regular compilation of family business statistics.'*

Read EFB's Position Paper here:

<http://www.europeanfamilybusinesses.eu/uploads/Modules/Publications/pp---ep-fb-report-20142210-ini.pdf>

European Family Businesses (EFB) is the federation of national associations representing long-term family owned enterprises, including small, medium-sized and larger companies. EFB represents 1 trillion euros in aggregated turnover, which is 9 per cent of European GDP. EFB's mission is to press for policies that recognise the fundamental contribution of family businesses in Europe's economy and create a level playing field when compared to other types of companies.

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