

# EFB response

## to the consultation on the future of the EU2020 strategy



European Family Businesses welcomes the initiative of the Commission to create a document that will help both the EU and the Member States in meeting the challenges of the next decade, and specially the idea of a partnership for growth and job creation, where Family Businesses have a lot to offer. European Family Businesses recognises the European Union as of vital importance for bringing the EU27 out of the difficult current economic climate, and in creating a European economy which will be better adapted to face future global challenges. We particularly welcome the Commissions emphasis on:

- The importance of harnessing the potential of education and research,
- Fostering responsible entrepreneurship,
- Creating a more competitive sustainable economy,
- The importance of the Stability and Growth Pact.

**Although the Commission's EU2020 strategy underlines some of the key drivers for renewed economic growth and sustainability, European Family Businesses would like to see more emphasis on:**

### **1. Modernised Public Sector**

The need for a modern public sector, which allocates resources in an efficient and fair manner, and works effectively with various other private channels. Also, the EU should continue to support the principle of subsidiarity as the basis for new policies and new legislation.

### **2. Renewing existing forms of growth**

Although European Family Businesses agrees with the Commissions views on the need to build on new sources of growth to boost employment, it is also essential to build on existing sources of growth

### **3. Fostering the next generation**

We can not forget the importance of the next generation, the future of Europe. We should build Europe with and for the next generation. Promoting entrepreneurship and responsible ownership is essential for the future of Europe's economy and environment.

#### **4. Financial self-sufficiency**

Attention should equally be paid to levels of indebtedness and levels of financial self-sufficiency. Therefore, policies that support the retention of earnings and the inflow of new equity are essential.

#### **5. Supporting better Labour mobility**

The EU2020 proposal advocates for better labour mobility, European Family Businesses believes practical solutions such as a 'Transportable pension accounts' would truly make employment mobile. In doing so, Europe's economy would become more dynamic, and labour can be supplied to where it is needed.

#### **6. Better dissemination of environmental best practises**

For the European Economy to become sustainable better dissemination of existing and emerging best environmental practises must be promoted by the Commission. Information platforms must be created to facilitate the exchange of experiences.

#### **7. More efficient EU**

Finally, the European Union must continue to strive for a more transparent and efficient political system. Therefore, the EU must continue to implement the Lisbon Treaty with the least amount of delay. European Family Businesses-GEEF fully supports the initiative of the Commission to re-start Europe's economy via the EU2020 strategy and will continue to work with the EU in the quest for a prosperous future.

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European Family Businesses is a federation of 11 national family businesses associations. Our aim is to make political decision makers aware of the contribution of family businesses to society at large and to promote policies that are conducive to long term entrepreneurship. Our members represent turnover in excess of one trillion Euro, 9% of European GDP.