



PRESS RELEASE

European Employers call on governments to urgently step up efforts to rebuild private sector confidence and get labour markets moving again

(Riga, September 10 – 11) **European members of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) meet in Riga tomorrow and Friday to assess current policies to combat the crisis in global labour markets, to strengthen the employers' role in shaping policy and to plan strategic action for the coming period.**

Hosted by the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK), the meeting is to be opened by the Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia Uldis Augulis, the President of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) Vitālijs Gavrilovs and the IOE's European Vice-President Renate Hornung-Draus.

Director-General of the LDDK Elīna Egle noted that *now, when Latvian enterprises are striving to preserve their competitiveness in the face of decreasing demand in both domestic and export markets, – negative macro-economic indicators influence the potential for future development.*

She went on to say that this meeting is the opportunity to exchange ideas and recovery strategies with counterparts from throughout Europe; to outline Latvia's strategic vision for national economic recovery; and to promote the vibrant and resilient enterprise sector and investment opportunities Latvia offers.

Commenting on the current situation, IOE European Vice President Renate Hornung-Draus noted that *in responding to the immediate and drastic impact of the crisis, European enterprises have tried where possible to keep a medium to longer term perspective, and have resisted rashly shedding jobs for short term savings. While this may be an expensive approach in the short term, it should place European businesses in a strong competitive position as the global economy recovers.*

However, she went on to say that no enterprise can ignore basic economic rules. Ultimately, every enterprise has to ensure its survival on the market which is *the* precondition for creating and sustaining jobs. It is therefore vitally important to get the economic framework conditions for business right again.

IOE Secretary-General Antonio Peñalosa highlighted that the IOE, working with its global and regional partners, has been focusing its efforts on promoting policy solutions that can rebuild private sector confidence and get labour markets moving again. He stated that *in the current climate, with so many enterprises, particularly small ones, either struggling to survive, or going out of business, the role of strong representative employers' organizations is more important than ever.*

The meeting is to call on European Policy makers to urgently step up efforts to ensure that regulatory and legislative environments enable enterprises, particularly SMEs, to both survive this turbulent period and remain well positioned to benefit when economic recovery begins. It will additionally reaffirm employers' organizations commitment to continue advocating sustainable policies and measures that will restore confidence and reinvigorate private sector activity; to champion open and informed debate on policy measures for exiting the crisis; and to rebuild trust in business.

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ABOUT THE IOE

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) is the world's largest business network with representative Employers' organizations in 141 countries around the globe. Its members represent millions of enterprises of all sizes and across all sectors of economic activity.

The IOE's core role is to enhance the global labour and social policy environment for business, thereby contributing to the creation and strengthening of private enterprise everywhere.

As a network, the IOE provides access to a unique platform for the exchange and dissemination of information, experience and good practice amongst the global business community on all issues impacting on the real world of work.

ABOUT LDDK

The Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) is the largest organization representing employers' interests in the fields of improving entrepreneurship environment, education, employment, social security, health care, labour law and labour protection. LDDK unites 51 employers' organizations significant in the national economy of Latvia – branch, regional and professional associations and federations, as well as companies employing more than 50 employees. Members of LDDK employ more than 33% of the manpower of Latvia.

LDDK is a social partner to Saeima, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia at the national level. LDDK promoted establishment of the social dialogue mechanism on the level of municipalities in a form of tripartite consultative councils. LDDK is represented in committees and councils at the national level including NTSP (National Tripartite Cooperation Council and its sub-councils), thereby providing representation of the viewpoint of entrepreneurs, participating in elaboration of national laws and regulations and national position in the EU.

At the international level LDDK is represented in the International Organization of Employers (IOE), Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in the Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE), which is the most important representative of European entrepreneurs' interests in the EU institutions. LDDK is represented in the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as in eight consultative committees and councils of the European Commission and three EU agencies.