

EPP TABLES PROPOSALS ON ECONOMIC POLICY

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The **European People's Party (EPP)** recently approved two documents on **tax competition** and **labour market reform in the European Union (EU)**, with the aim of making significant contributions to improving the current situation in both fields.

Firstly, the EPP member parties gave a positive vote on the document "Tax competition in Europe", in which they recommend EU Member States to implement several measures, which would enhance the competitiveness and transparency of fiscal systems in Europe. These include: alleviation of the general tax burden in Europe; simplification of the tax systems, making them clearer and easier to understand; support for the reform on personal and corporate tax systems on a national level; and the fortification of further tax competition.

In fact, we firmly believe that a simpler and more competitive fiscal system will lead to a convergence of tax systems in Europe, once tax rates and exemptions are reduced, and that this will benefit both European taxpayers and European companies alike.

Secondly, the EPP also adopted a resolution on the necessity to renew the European labour market, with the aim of creating more, and better, jobs through innovation and entrepreneurship.

More specifically, the EPP considers that the EU should focus strongly on investing in human capital through measures which include more education and training opportunities, in order to prevent unemployment, and to increase work opportunities for disadvantaged categories such as the unemployed, women, young and elderly workers.

The EPP also believes that the aim of the reforms should embrace an even more inclusive labour market, which offers employment to as many people as possible and at the same time encourages flexible working time, more incentives for jobseekers and an increased entrepreneurial spirit among EU citizens.

The goal of the Lisbon Strategy, to make sure that 70% of the European working age population is employed, is essential in ensuring European welfare. Therefore, we strongly believe that the opening up of the European services market, together with the completion of the EU Internal Market and the enhanced competitiveness of our economic systems are basic requirements for successful employment policies in the future.

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