

Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium

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Lobby Flash Highlights:

* AmCham Belgium presents the first issue of its new publication, *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium*

Download the full report here

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Editor: Sue Wheeler

PRIORITIES FOR A PROSPEROUS BELGIUM 2009

After regular updates on the business climate for foreign investment in Belgium for more than ten years, the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium now has produced the first edition of its new publication *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium*, which aims to strengthen Belgium's attractiveness for doing business.

Based on three policy fields, *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium* introduces six recommendations where improvements would be effective to enhance the Belgian investment climate, by making it more competitive, innovative and efficient through lowering labor cost and taxation, reducing administrative burdens, improving employment flexibility and encouraging job creation:

LOWER EMPLOYMENT COSTS AND TAXATION

1. Reduce employer social security costs to 20% of gross wages
2. Reduce corporate tax to 25%

FACILITATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND INNOVATION

3. Reduce administrative burdens
4. Support R&D and encourage innovation-oriented education

STIMULATE A LARGER AND MORE FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE

5. Increase workforce participation, particularly amongst older workers
6. Improve employment flexibility and reform wage indexation

This year, the launch of this publication will be followed swiftly by the release in November of our annual US Direct Investment into Belgium report. This report is developed in close cooperation with Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School. From 2010 onwards, *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium* will be published annually after AmCham's Annual General Meeting in March.

Additionally, a monthly highlight of each of the six recommendations will be published on our website.

Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium 2009 is available for download via the link on the left side of this Lobby Flash.

Group Patron and Patron Members of AmCham Belgium can expect their hardcopy soon!

To learn more about AmCham Belgium's commitment to improving the Belgian business climate, please contact us today at gchamber@amcham.be.

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