

# Elections 2019: Investing in Investments

**Brussels, February 19, 2019 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium) sets the challenge and ambition for Belgium to achieve a top ten ranking in the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Index within the next ten years in its [2019 Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium](#), released this morning. The Chamber’s election memorandum contains recommendations from the international business community to help Belgium become globally competitive and attract more foreign investment.**

With less than 100 days to go before voters cast their ballots, the next federal and regional elections will be followed by two immediate challenges: the formation of new governments and the design of an ambitious and coherent policy vision. As the voice of the international business community, AmCham Belgium presents its 2019 *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium*, a **guideline for the next federal and regional governments**, to build a more competitive country, **to attract more foreign direct investment and to create more prosperity for all.**

“We want more companies to say **#Yes2Belgium** as a business and investment location,” said Marcel Claes, Chief Executive of AmCham Belgium. To become more attractive for international companies, we set the challenge and ambition for Belgium **to achieve a top ten ranking in the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index within the next ten years.** “Despite its potential, Belgium is currently ranked 21<sup>st</sup>, well behind its neighboring countries,” added Claes. “This signals a missed opportunity.”

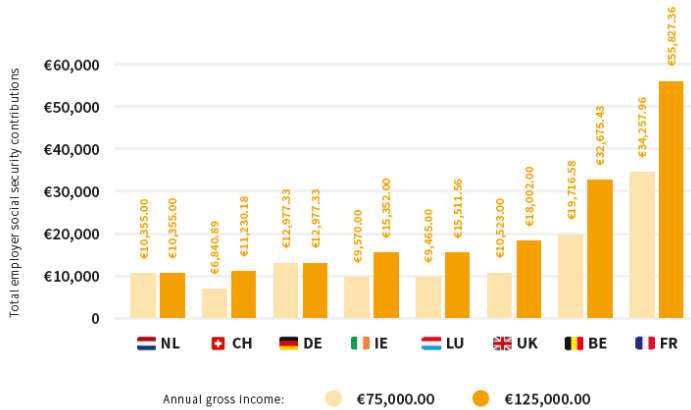
The concerns of our member companies align closely with those areas where Belgium has the greatest room for improvement in the WEF’s Global Competitiveness Index. We call on the next governments to **invest in people** to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; **invest in public sector efficiency** to create budgetary room for maneuver; **invest in infrastructure** to allow the swift movement of people, goods and services; and **invest in business** to ease the cost and complexity of operating in Belgium.

These are determining factors for companies when making investment decisions, and they are therefore vital for the long-term prosperity of the country.

Belgium will need to climb the competitiveness rankings, by **investing in investments**. AmCham Belgium stands ready to work with all levels of government, whatever their political affiliations, to facilitate dialogue between the international business community and policy-makers, and, on the basis of our *Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium*, to improve Belgium’s competitiveness and attract more foreign direct investment.

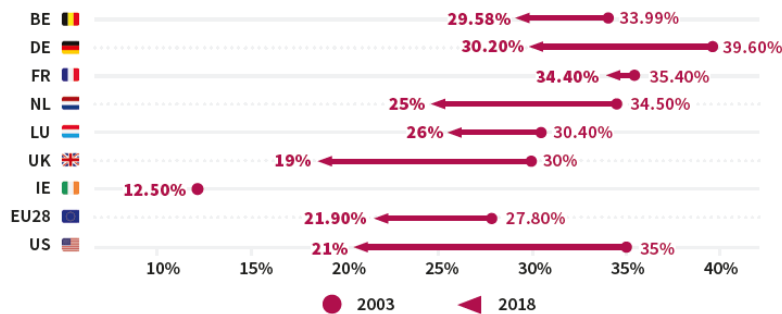
**Download the 2019 [Priorities for a Prosperous Belgium](#) from our website.**

**FIGURE 1: EMPLOYER SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS**



[Source] Deloitte, European Salary Survey, December 2018

**FIGURE 2: STATUTORY CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES (% 2003 – 2018)**



[Source] European Commission, Taxation Trends in the European Union, 2018

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**About AmCham Belgium**

The American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (AmCham Belgium) is a dynamic non-profit organization dedicated to improving business and investment opportunities for the US-Belgian business community. Supported by around 450 member companies, AmCham Belgium plays a pivotal role in an evolving business environment by focusing on three key areas: advocacy, networking and knowledge-sharing. To learn more about AmCham Belgium, visit [www.amcham.be](http://www.amcham.be).