

## **EUROCHAMBRES survey: Entrepreneurs allocate quarter of EU budget to competitiveness**

Hundreds of businesses of different nationalities, sizes and sectors recommend that a quarter of the EU budget should be spent on competitiveness actions, thus more than doubling the current level. Overall, the entrepreneurs, gathered in Brussels in the context of the European Parliament of Enterprises\*, think that the 'sustainable growth' heading should receive half of the budget, with the 'cohesion' heading reduced by over a quarter.

Entrepreneurs would also half the 'CAP-market-related expenditure and direct payments' sub-heading, bringing the whole 'Preservation and management of natural resources' heading to less than 30% of the total budget.

In addition, businesses call for an eight-fold increase of EU resources devoted to the 'citizenship, freedom, security and justice' heading (from 1% to 8%). The entrepreneurs also significantly increase the 'EU as a global player' heading (from 6% to 9%), underlining the importance of being able to access foreign markets.

The 2010 survey sees entrepreneurs allocating an even greater share of the budget to 'competitiveness' objectives (25%) than in an identical exercise exactly two years ago (18%), thus showing that, compared to 2008, entrepreneurs are more concerned about the economic situation and believe that EU spending should further prioritise education and training, innovation, research and energy.

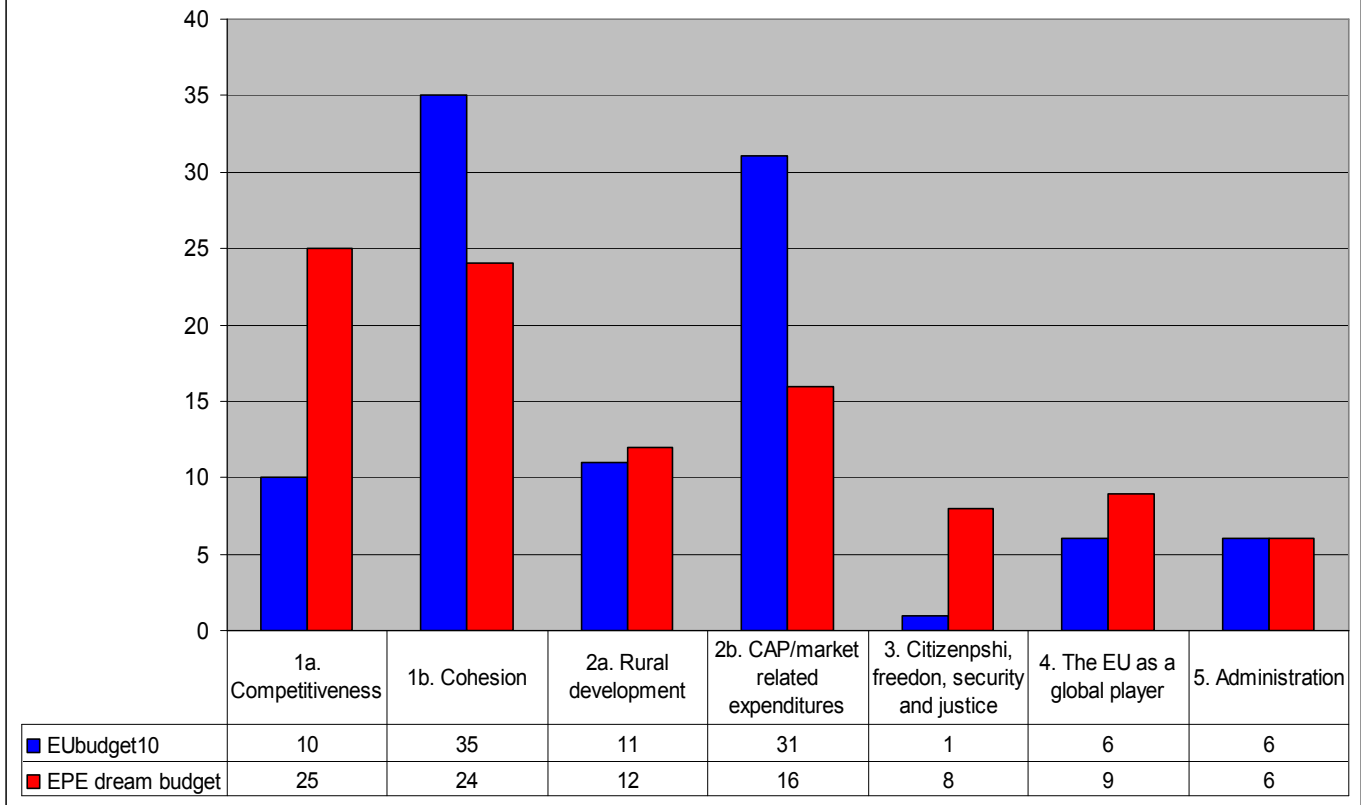
Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, commented: *"Entrepreneurs provide a clear recommendation with regard to the key areas in which EU money should be spent in the future. The EU Budget Review, published today, broadly recognises that tomorrow's number one priority is to revitalise Europe's economy. Now businesses trust that their recommendations will give teeth to the growth principles included in the EU Budget Review, and will resonate strongly in the forthcoming proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework and in the following negotiations."*

\* The European Parliament of Enterprises, organised by EUROCHAMBRES on 14 October 2010 in the Brussels Hemicycle of the European Parliament, allowed 774 entrepreneurs of all sizes and sectors, coming from 45 European countries, to debate and vote on specific business-related issues. The aim of the 'EU Dream Budget' survey was to understand how entrepreneurs would spend EU money.

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### EU budget 2010 - EPE dream budget: comparison by heading



N.B. numbers are percentages. Moreover, for the sake of clarity and to be consistent with the way the survey has been presented to European entrepreneurs gathered at the EPE, all percentages were rounded up or down to eliminate decimals.

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EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.