



HEADLINES

EU / ENTREPRENEURSHIP Brussels 30/07/2001: EU entrepreneurship initiatives gathered on web

The European Commission has launched a web site including all initiatives and measures undertaken by Member States, the Commission, the Council, and the European Parliament in relation to and as a follow-up of the Action Plan to Promote Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness. The Action Plan was the concrete outcome of the work undertaken by the Business Environment Simplification Taskforce in 1997-1998 (BEST). The Action Plan is currently also being implemented to a certain extent within the candidate countries. The web site complements the first Implementation Report of the Action Plan (October 2000), and should assist in further dissemination of the overview. The web site has been ordered according to the priority areas as defined by the Action Plan: - Education for an entrepreneurial society, and training; - Access to finance for SMEs, especially expanding and hi-tech firms; - Access to research and innovation, and better use of patents by SMEs; - Improve visibility of support services ; - Improve public administration; and - Improve employment and working conditions;

More info (copy/paste full link): http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/best-directory/index.htm

OECD / TAXATION Brussels 01/07/2001: Taxation on labour remains too high

A recently published report by the OECD, indicated that the tax-to-GDP ratio rose steadily in most EU countries up to the late 1990s and that, in spite of recent tax cuts, the overall tax burden in the EU area remained much higher than in most other economies, especially on labour. The report suggests, amongst other measures, the need to further rebalance the tax burden away from labour as to contribute better to EU's employment performance.

More info (copy/paste full link): [http://www.ois.oecd.org/olis/2001doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp\(2001\)27](http://www.ois.oecd.org/olis/2001doc.nsf/linkto/eco-wkp(2001)27)

EU / ENVIRONMENT Brussels 02/08/2001: EC launched consultation on environmental liability

Further to the comments received on the White Paper on Environmental Liability (issued in February 2000) the Commission has prepared a working document open for public consultation. Based on this consultation and some ongoing studies, the Commission will forward a legislative proposal in the form of a Directive on environmental liability. All comments on the working document should be sent by 15 September 2001.

More info: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/consultation.htm>