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BUSINESS SUPPORTS EU ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

The business community views positively the Rethinking Education Communication's emphasis on the need to better tailor the skills people develop in education to labour market requirements.

The development of an EU Alliance for Apprenticeships will encourage the sharing of knowledge and ideas and ultimately help to boost the number of apprenticeship positions available across the Member States and encourage the participation of young people in such schemes.

In 2015, the estimated shortage of qualified ICT staff in the EU will be up to 700,000. In view of projected skills shortages in ICT and science, technology, engineering and mathematics more broadly, it is important to widen the appeal of these subjects to young people. Further concrete proposals on how to achieve this are needed.

Philippe de Buck, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE commented: "*with an EU youth unemployment rate of 22.8%, priority must be given to all possible means that can help get young people into work. BUSINESSEUROPE has already made concrete proposals to this effect. Apprenticeships are one important means of helping to prepare young people for working life and they must therefore be recognised and promoted as a key aspect of education*".

BUSINESSEUROPE has published a report on "[Creating opportunities for youth: how to improve the quality and image of apprenticeships](#)"

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE's members are 41 leading industrial and employers' federations from 35 European countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe. For the full list of our members, please visit our website.

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