



Press Release

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EU Constitution must do more to address economic challenges, says IoD

The EU Constitution, as currently drafted, fails to respond to the key challenges that Europe now faces, according to a report, published today, by the Institute of Directors

These challenges include the rise of powerful new economies such as China and India, technological advance and demographic shifts. Authoritative projections show the combined GDP of Brazil, India, Russia and China rising from 15% of G6 levels today to eclipse the G6 by 2040.

The IoD paper, '*The EU Constitution: meeting the economic challenge*', argues that the EU Constitution should concentrate less on building new political structures and more on enterprise.

The IoD's Head of European and Regulatory Affairs, James Walsh, said:

"The Government's referendum commitment has strengthened the Prime Minister's hand at the negotiating table. The Government should now step up its demands, making it clear that it will not accept the job-destroying Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU-level co-ordination of economic policies.

"Instead, Britain should be arguing for a Constitution that puts deregulation and free trade at the top of the EU's agenda.

"The referendum commitment has already brought the prospect of a valuable concession on EU control of energy policy. We urge the Government to press home its advantage and ensure that the new Constitution tackles the EU's inward-looking mindset. It is vital that Europe starts responding to the challenges that we now face in the global economy."

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Notes to Editors

1. *The EU Constitution: meeting the economic challenge*, has been written by the IoD's Chief Economist, Graeme Leach, and Head of European and Regulatory Affairs, James Walsh.
2. Copies are available from the IoD Press Office.
3. The IoD (Institute of Directors) was founded in 1903 and obtained a Royal Charter in 1906. The IoD is a non-party political organisation with upwards of 54,000 members in the United Kingdom. Membership includes directors from right across the business spectrum – from media to manufacturing, e-business to the public and voluntary sectors. Members include CEOs of large corporations as well as entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.
4. The IoD offers a wide range of business services which include business centre facilities (including six regional centres), conferences, networking events, issues-led guides and literature as well as information services and free access to a comprehensive business library and enquiry service. The IoD places great emphasis on director development and has established a certified qualification for directors - Chartered Director - as well as running specific board-level and director-level training and individual career mentoring programmes.
5. In addition, the IoD provides an effective voice to represent the interests of its members to government and key opinion-formers at the highest levels. These include ministers, constituency MPs, Select Committee members and senior civil servants. IoD policies and views are actively promoted to the national, regional and trade media.
6. For further information, visit our website: www.iod.com

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Contact Points:

Richard Taylor, Press Officer, tel. 020 7451 3264
Mobile and out of hours. 07721 734886

David Marshall, Director of Public Affairs, tel: 020 7451 3263
Mobile and out of hours: 07764 883420
Email. Press@iod.com
Web. www.iod.com