



Press Release

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EU Constitution deal does not go far enough, says IoD

The Government's achievement in securing its EU Constitution 'red lines' does not go far enough, according to the Institute of Directors.

Although the IoD welcomes the Government's successes in safeguarding the veto on matters such as tax, treaty change and defence, concessions made on other issues will cause major concerns in the business community.

These issues include the Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU co-ordination of economic and employment policies. They also include the new EU power to set energy policy. This proposal had been dropped from the text in recent weeks following British lobbying, but has now been reinserted as part of the final deal.

The IoD's Director-General, George Cox, said:

"The Government's achievement in securing its 'red lines' is very welcome, but it does not go far enough. Although Britain keeps the veto over vital matters such as tax, treaty change and defence, the Government has had to make concessions on issues such as the new EU power over energy.

"The Charter of Fundamental Rights leaves many crucial matters open for decision at a later date by the courts. Far from clarifying employment rights, this leaves business facing worrying uncertainty.

"We can now expect a vigorous debate in the business community over whether this deal will help business to meet the challenges of the global economy and compete successfully."

Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Directors will be analysing the outcome of the Constitution negotiations very carefully and will conduct a survey of its members' views. The results of this exercise will inform the IoD's contribution to the national debate leading up to the forthcoming referendum.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. For further information, visit our website: www.iod.com

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