



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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New CER pamphlet

## **THE LISBON SCORECARD VII**

### **Will globalisation leave Europe stranded?**

By Katinka Barysch, Simon Tilford and Aurore Wanlin

It is easy to mock the EU's 'Lisbon agenda' of economic reform for its overambitious targets and poor delivery. However, Lisbon's core objectives of open markets, entrepreneurship and solid skills remain crucial at a time when globalisation, technology and ageing are forcing European economies to adjust ever faster. The EU cannot offer one-size-fits-all solutions. But it can and does encourage member-states to learn from each others' successes and failures. EU governments need to get this message if Europe is to thrive in the future.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the CER's 'Lisbon scorecard' shows that some EU countries are well placed to benefit from globalisation, while others will lose out. The Nordic countries boast the highest employment rates in the EU, the most successful high-tech industries and the best social protection. Denmark and the Netherlands – the only EU member to combine high productivity levels with good job numbers – are the 'heroes' of this year's scorecard. In France, Germany and Italy, progress is noticeable but slow. The Mediterranean members, alongside some of the newcomers that joined in 2004, are the EU's laggards. Poland is once again designated a 'villain', as is Greece, which has wasted many of the opportunities offered by more than 20 years of EU membership.

This scorecard also shows that Europe's reform agenda remains dynamic. Following the 2005 overhaul of the Lisbon process, the EU is now revamping its competition rules to encourage innovation and start-ups; it is moving into the next phase of financial market integration; and it is rethinking its energy policy to ensure security of supply and meet Kyoto targets on climate change.

The CER's 'Lisbon scorecard' also keeps changing. We have added in-depth analysis on, for example, the link between innovation and productivity growth, the shortcomings of the EU's emissions trading system, and the reform of universities. And we have invited a group of eminent experts to contribute articles on issues such as regulatory burdens and the future of the single market.

#### Notes for editors:

1. The Lisbon scorecard VII will be launched in Rome on February 26<sup>th</sup> with Francesco Rutelli; in London on February 28<sup>th</sup> with George Osborne MP and in Brussels on March 5<sup>th</sup> with José Manuel Barroso.
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3. This paper can be ordered from the CER website ([www.cer.org.uk](http://www.cer.org.uk)) or by contacting Kate Meakins at [kate@cer.org.uk](mailto:kate@cer.org.uk) or on +44 20 7233 1199.

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