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PRESS RELEASE

New CER working paper

The Barcelona Scorecard: The status of economic reform in the enlarging EU

By Edward Bannerman

Only a new 'High Representative for Economic Policy' can ensure the EU meets its 2010 target of becoming "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world". European leaders should appoint a 'Mr Euroland' to drive forward the Lisbon process of economic reform over the coming years. The success of Javier Solana in foreign policy offers a promising precedent.

This is one of the conclusions of *The Barcelona Scorecard*, the CER's second assessment of the EU's progress on economic reform. Two years on from the Lisbon summit, this paper takes stock of what it has achieved and, equally importantly, what remains to be done. France and Germany emerge as the 'villains' of the Lisbon process in 2002. Sweden, Spain and the European Commission are the 'heroes', having done most to keep the EU's reform efforts on track.

The EU summit at Barcelona in March 2002 made some progress, for example in energy liberalisation. But in many countries, tough choices have been ducked, in part owing to the current wave of elections. As a result, the economic gap with the US is widening, not closing.

This second edition of the scorecard also includes an analysis of the performance of the candidate countries of central and eastern Europe. The new members could provide a fresh impetus to the Lisbon process, as they have undertaken radical structural economic reforms and will rightly expect current member-states to come into line.

Notes for editors:

1. Edward Bannerman is head of the business and economics unit of the CER. For more information, please call Heather Grabbe or Alasdair Murray on 00 44 20 7233 1199.
2. This paper can be ordered from the CER website (www.cer.org.uk) or by contacting kate@cer.org.uk.
3. The CER is grateful to KPMG for supporting the cost of this publication.