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For immediate release:

Barometer of Employee Ownership Policies in European Countries

The European Federation of Employee Share Ownership (EFES) releases the new edition of its "Barometer of Employee Share Ownership Policies in European Countries".

Eighteen European countries now have policies for the promotion and development of employee ownership. This number had never been higher before.

Except in France, all recent policy developments in Europe pave the way towards higher incentives for employee ownership. Norway doubled fiscal incentives on 1.1.2017. Poland prepares dedicated legislation. Ireland announces a new share incentive scheme for SMEs to be introduced in 2018, as well as The Netherlands with a favorable tax treatment of stock options for employees of innovative start-ups. These new developments confirm the positive trend observed since 2013.

On the other hand, hesitation dominated in France, where the outgoing government suppressed in 2017 the positive provisions introduced by the Macron Law eighteen months earlier. This explains the relapse of the barometer in 2017.

The negative political decisions of France since 2009 unfortunately influence the performance of the whole of Europe. In France, they are at the origin of the heavy fall in the rate of democratization of employee ownership, the number of employee shareholders being reduced to three million compared with four million with unchanged policy.

Marc Mathieu, Secretary General of the EFES said: "*After a period of uncertainty following the financial crisis, most policy choices in European countries are in favor of the promotion and development of employee share ownership. European countries had never been so numerous in this direction. It is time for France to come back to the right way.*"

The new Barometer will be available on www.efesonline.org and can be [downloaded here](#).

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Notes to editors:

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The European Federation of Employee Share Ownership (EFES) is an international not for profit organization.

EFES is the voice of employee share ownership in Europe. It was established in 1998 as the umbrella organisation of employee owners, companies and all persons, trade unions, experts, researchers, institutions looking to promote the development of employee share ownership and participation in Europe.