

To

The Government of the Republic of Estonia

For the attention of Prime Minister Andrus Ansip

Chairman:

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**FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia contributes to Estonia's
Action Plan for Growth and Jobs 2008-2011**

FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia is hereby proud to contribute to the Estonian Action Plan for Growth and Jobs 2008 – 2011.

FICE members include the American, Austrian, British, Danish, Finnish, German-Baltic, Holland, Norwegian and Swedish Chambers of Commerce, Business Clubs and Marketing Offices in Estonia. Together, the nine countries represented among FICE's member organizations had a more than 80% share of the total foreign direct investments in Estonia during the first six months 2008 [source: Eesti Pank].

FICE's ideas and proposals to the Estonian Action Plan for Growth and Jobs 2008 – 2011 are listed below for the Government of the Republic of Estonia to consider and evaluate:

Tax system

- Keep the tax system simple and attractive
- Make Estonia a financial center & hub

Energy and environment

- Develop new energy sources like nuclear and renewable energy
- Develop transmission connections with Nordic and cross country cooperation
- Better management of the forest resources
- Continue with the efficient use of EU cohesion funds to improve the Estonian transport infrastructure, in particular the road system
- Environment and sustainability are global issues – and opportunities that should be prioritized

Administrative reforms

- Merge smaller municipalities to bigger units
- Improve the integration of minorities
- Fight corruption between business and politics
- Streamline the approval, management and payment process of EAS funds to Estonian small to medium size enterprises (SME's)

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Export

- Focus on export promotion
- Better service and competence in all export areas to be globally competitive
- Promote Estonia as a high tech community – e.g. the creator of Skype, internet banking etc.
- Focus on and improve the transit trade
- Create added value in Global Supply Chains via knowledge / science

Education

- Better vocational education
- Continue to develop language skills in schools
- Merge smaller universities to bigger units.
- Heavy investment into research and development – develop and sustain a high level

Business, general

- Improve co-operation between interested parties: businesses, business communities, government, authorities, etc
- Focus on and support small businesses
- Keep the simplicity and transparency in the business sector
- Keep inflation and salaries down – facilitate access to foreign workforce
- Improve business relations with Russia
- INCREASED efficiency must be a national topic!!!

FICE looks forward to discuss our ideas and proposals with the Government of the Republic of Estonia in the very near future and we hope that this first discussion will mark the start of regular meetings and discussions between the Estonian Government and FICE.

On behalf of FICE – Foreign Investors' Council in Estonia,

Yours sincerely,

Jens Christiansen
FICE Chairman

/Kristiina Sikk
FICE Secretary