

## EU Reforms Right for the United Kingdom and Necessary for Europe, Says Cameron

24 January 2013

Adrian Monck, Managing Director, Head of Communications: +41 (0)79 615 1671; [adrian.monck@weforum.org](mailto:adrian.monck@weforum.org)

- United Kingdom is not turning its back on Europe, said British Prime Minister David Cameron
- Reforms will not damage UK business
- European political union is not for Britain
- The theme of the 43rd World Economic Forum Annual Meeting is *Resilient Dynamism*.  
For more information, visit <http://wef.ch/Davos>

**Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, 24 January 2013** – Speaking this morning at the 43rd World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, British Prime Minister David Cameron said his proposed reforms for Britain's relationship with the European Union are as necessary for Europe as they are for Britain.

"This is not about turning our backs on Europe," he told a crowded audience. "This is about how we make the case for a more competitive, flexible and open Europe – not just for Britain's sake, but for everyone's sake."

He drew a distinction between political unity and unified political will. "A centralized political union – not for me and not for Britain," he said. "Political will is what matters rather than the endless process of building new and more political institutions."

Cameron described the priorities for the United Kingdom's 12-month presidency of the G8 as being trade, tax and transparency. "Some companies need to wake up and smell the coffee," said Cameron, referring to his governments' stated intention to clamp down on corporate tax evasion.

Taking questions from the audience, Cameron defended the accusation that his EU reforms and aggressive tax stance may damage business confidence in the United Kingdom, saying the United Kingdom will soon be one of the lowest tax countries in the world with a corporation tax approaching 20%.

"I'm a low-tax conservative," he said. "I'm not a 'companies should pay no tax' conservative".

The 43rd World Economic Forum Annual Meeting is taking place from 23 to 27 January under the theme **Resilient Dynamism**. More than 2,500 participants from over 100 countries are taking part in the Meeting. Participants include nearly 50 heads of state or

government and more than 1,500 business leaders from the Forum's 1,000 Member companies, as well as [Social Entrepreneurs](#), [Global Shapers](#), [Young Global Leaders](#) and representatives from civil society, media, academia and the arts.

The co-chairs of Annual Meeting 2013 are: **Frederico Curado**, President and Chief Executive Officer, EMBRAER, Brazil; **Muhtar A. Kent**, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, The Coca-Cola Company, USA; **Huguette Labelle**, Chair,

Transparency International, Germany; Global Agenda Council on Responsible Mineral Resources Management; **Andrew N. Liveris**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Dow Chemical Company, USA; **Atsutoshi Nishida**, Chairman of the Board, Toshiba

Corporation, Japan; and **Axel A. Weber**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, UBS, Switzerland

## Notes to Editors

More information about the Annual Meeting 2013 is available at <http://wef.ch/davos2013>

View the best photographs from the Annual Meeting on Flickr at <http://wef.ch/davos13pix>

Free media access to the Forum press photo archive Swiss-Image at <http://wef.ch/pics>

Watch live webcasts of sessions at <http://wef.ch/live> and on demand at <http://wef.ch/davos13video>

Watch opinions and analysis of key sessions at <http://wef.ch/AM13insights>

Watch the sessions on demand on YouTube at <http://wef.ch/youtube> or <http://wef.ch/youku>

Become a fan of the Forum on Facebook at <http://wef.ch/facebook>

Read the summaries of sessions at <http://wef.ch/davos13sessions>

Follow the Forum on Twitter at <http://wef.ch/twitter> and <http://wef.ch/livetweet> (hashtag #WEF)

Read the Forum:Blog at <http://wef.ch/blog>

Follow the Forum on Google+ at <http://wef.ch/gplus>

The Forum Media App is available here <http://wef.ch/publicapps>

---

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interests (<http://www.weforum.org>).



World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva  
Tel. +41 (0)22 869 1212, Fax +41 (0)22 786 2744, <http://www.weforum.org>