



Alliance for Societas
Europaea Promotion

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, April 16, 2018

European businesses call on the European Commission to increase the attractiveness of the statute of European company

With the European Union wanting to **harmonise company taxation** and the European Commission planning to present a company law package in the next few weeks, the Alliance for Societas Europaea (ASEP) is calling for **the European Parliament and Council to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss improvement of the statute of European company to make it more attractive to businesses.**

Introduced in a 2001 directive and adapted in France in 2005, the statute of European company (SE) facilitates the activities of companies within the European area and enables greater employee involvement in company governance. However, to date the statute has not experienced the success that was initially hoped for, notably due to the highly restrictive conditions of formation and the absence of tax harmonisation in the European Union.

Thierry Breton, Chairman of the ASEP and CEO of Atos SE, said:

“The European company statute offers a real opportunity for businesses to position themselves within a European perspective and identity, while giving them more agility in the European area and increasing employees’ role in companies’ governance.

“In these times of defiance of the European project, recently seen in the elections in Italy and Hungary, heads of businesses must more than ever push for and be committed in favour of a Europe resolutely turned towards the future. For ASEP members, the choice of the SE legal statute shows a commitment to and high expectations of Europe, which complements and reinforces national activities, and which will allow us to respond better to the numerous economic, social and environmental challenges we face. Therefore, we have to make this statute as attractive as possible.”

In a climate which now seems favourable to bringing national tax laws closer together, the ASEP is calling for a relaxation of the conditions of SE formation and for the European Commission to take advantage of the debates on the company law package to **allow the statute of European company to achieve its full potential.**

Contact: H  l  ne VERBRUGGHE +32 (0) 2 893 97 27