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For immediate release:

## ***New record year for employee share ownership in Europe***

**The European Federation of Employee Share Ownership (EFES)**, will release the new "Annual Economic Survey of Employee Share Ownership in European Countries" on April 11.

This is a new record year for employee share ownership in Europe, with nearly 400 billion Euro held by employees in their company or 3.11%. More and more European companies are organizing employee share plans. In 2018, 87.3% of all large European companies had employee share plans, while 52.3% had plans for all employees. Finally, 33.4% of all large European companies launched new employee share plans, a proportion that increases from year to year.

The rise is back for the number of employee shareholders, with 7.5 million people in large European companies; if we add one million employee shareholders in SMEs, the total figure reaches 8.5 million. However, the decline in the democratization rate of employee share ownership has still to be stopped.

Following the crisis, some European countries (including the UK) had chosen for stronger incentive policies, promoting employee share ownership and long term savings as an investment for the future. Instead of that, some other countries (including France) had chosen to reduce public spending and to support households consumption, while incentives for long term savings and for employee share ownership were sacrificed. This had a strong impact on the democratization rate of employee share ownership in Europe (the proportion of employee shareholders amongst all employees) leading to a divorce between the continent and the UK.

A sharp drop below 20% was observed on the continent. On the contrary, the democratization rate had risen to more than 25% in the UK.

After the negative phase from 2009 to 2013, policy decisions are positive again in most European countries. This led to a rebound of the democratization rate to 38% in France, illustrating the high elasticity of employee share ownership to fiscal incentives. However negative factors are still prevailing in some countries. Germany gives the picture of the dramatic impact of such policies on the democratization rate of employee share ownership, with less than 13%.



The new Annual Survey will be available on the EFES website on [www.efesonline.org](http://www.efesonline.org). The detailed publication can be [downloaded here](#).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

**For more information please contact Marc Mathieu on +32 492 068 759. 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 shareholders, companies and all persons, trade unions, experts, institutions looking to promote the development of employee share ownership in Europe.**

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