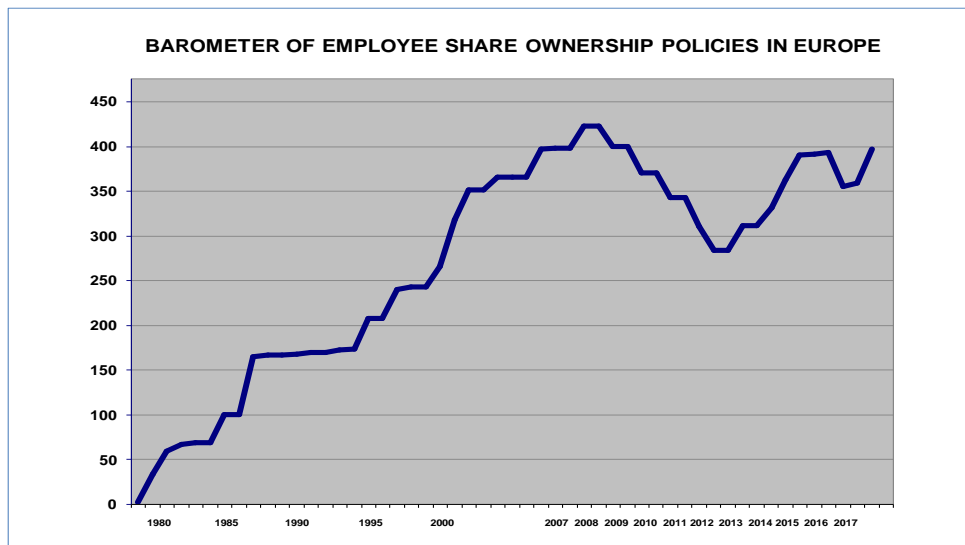December 7, 2017

For immediate release:

Barometer of Employee Share Ownership Policies in European Countries

Good news for employee share ownership in Europe and for all Europeans.

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

BAROMETER OF EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP POLICIES IN EUROPE

Marc Mathieu, Secretary General of the EFES said: "*As all barometers, this one announces the future. The positive trend of our barometer since 2013 announced the resumption of growth in the number of employee shareholders in European companies. This one is actually happening. Very good news for all Europeans !"*

Twenty European countries now have incentive policies for the development of employee share ownership. This number had never been higher before.

All recent policy developments in Europe pave the way towards higher incentives for employee ownership, which confirms the positive trend observed since 2013.

In addition to the two existing employee share schemes in **Austria**, a third scheme will be introduced on 1.1.2018 providing exemption of tax and social contribution up to 4.500 € annually. In **France**, the employers' social contribution on restricted share units will be reduced in 2018. New legislation in 2018 also in **Ireland**, in **The Netherlands**, in **Sweden**. In addition, **Poland** is preparing promising legislation.

The new Barometer will be available on www.efesonline.org and can be downloaded here.

ENDS

For more information please contact Marc Mathieu on +32 (0)492 068 759 or e-mail: efes@efesonline.org

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.