

May 27, 2008

## Lobby Flash Highlights:

- AmCham Belgium published its annual US Direct Investment Report including the Business Confidence Survey

## Links:

- To read more about the Report please click [here](#)
- If you are a member please click here to download the full Report [here](#)

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## AmCham Belgium releases “US Direct Investment 2008 Report”

AmCham Belgium released its annual **US Direct Investment in Belgium 2008 Report** on May 21, 2008. This year's report emphasized a decrease in US Investment in Belgium and points at the high employment cost as the main obstacle for attracting new investors.

Despite a slowdown in investment, 2006 saw Belgium earn a 6<sup>th</sup> place ranking as one of the most popular destinations for US Direct Investment (USDI) within the EU-15. The respondents to the Business Confidence Survey noted that along with the high cost of labor, a lack of flexibility in organizing labor continues to act as a deterrent for new investment. The lack of political and economic stability, the burden of government regulations and lack of qualified resources are also indicated as strong disincentives to foreign investment.

Based upon the results of the US Direct Investment 2008 Report, AmCham Belgium recommends the government to recognize the need to:

- Attract new investors to Belgium as well as encourage increased investment from existing investors
- Understand why a large number of investment projects did not come to Belgium
- Take measures to reduce the worrying shortage of skilled labor
- Modernize transportation infrastructure in order to ensure Belgium can remain a central node in the EU Network
- Recognize the shift towards sector and activity driven investments

The study, commissioned by AmCham Belgium and conducted by the Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School, includes detailed information on the developments and trends in foreign investment in Belgium along with the results of the triennial Business Confidence Survey. To obtain a copy of the study, please follow the link on the left side of this lobby flash. Alternatively, if you would like to purchase a hard copy of the study, please contact Sue Wheeler ([swheeler@amcham.be](mailto:swheeler@amcham.be))

***Lobby Flash** is designed to keep all members informed about AmCham Belgium's lobbying efforts. Further information can be found on our website [www.amcham.be](http://www.amcham.be).*