Proposals to Government

The BPF’s Recession Action Group of senior members, chaired by President Calum Forsyth of Wavin Plastics, has developed a series of proposals it is recommending to the Government to help mitigate some of the specific effects of the Recession.

Credit

- Introduce a national scheme to guarantee credit insurance to companies of all sizes.

Housing market stimulus

- Commit to Crosby by Government guaranteeing £100bn of mortgage backed securities in 2009-10
- Reduce VAT to 5% on all Housing energy efficient products
- Government speed up its programmes for sociable, affordable housing

Local Taxes on Business

- 12 month freeze on Business Rates
- Do not give local authorities the power to levy supplementary business rates. This proposal is currently going through Parliament and if agreed would come into effect in April 2010

Reducing Taxation

- Scrap April increases in V.E.D. and fuel duty to help new car sales. We have the highest Fuel Duty in Western Europe
- Scrap the Climate Change Levy increase in April
- Suspend the introduction of the Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Suspend empty property rates for all companies
- Reduce the headline rate of Corporation Tax to a more competitive level and reduce its complexity. The increase in small company Corporation Tax should be reversed permanently back to 20%
- Scrap the increase in employee and employer National Insurance Contributions in April 2011 planned by Government.

Employment

- We support 3 month internships for graduates
- More flexible and generous short time working allowances
- The Minimum wage only to be increased by the rate of inflation
- Scrap full employment rights for temporary Agency workers
**Public Sector economies to reduce borrowing**

The BPF is concerned at the huge level of National Debt revealed by the Government: £78bn this year; £118bn for 2009-10. The Government claims it has only found £5 bn of public sector savings. The BPF believe the public sector must play its part in reducing those borrowings. The BPF has called for:

- A freeze on public sector recruitment to save 10% of its 5.8 million posts. This would exclude front line staff such as: nurses; firemen, police, the armed services.
- Substantial savings in Regional Development Authorities after an independent review of their roles, costs and value for money.

**Increase support for Exports**

With sterling at a historic low this is an excellent opportunity for government to build on the £4.6 bn of exports already achieved by the plastics sector by

- UKTI increasing grants for companies to exhibit abroad or go on missions
- UKTI increasing grants to accredited organisations looking after UK pavilions at overseas exhibitions and trade missions

**Support for Innovation**

Innovation has always been a major strength of the UK plastics industry

- Reverse the 40% funding reduction by the Technology Strategy Board for the Materials Knowledge Transfer Network 2009-10