



Wednesday, 31 January 2007

No. 2007-03

EUROPEAN BUSINESS DEMANDS ACTIONS TO REINVIGORATE THE EUROPEAN UNION



On 23 January, BUSINESSEUROPE published its declaration on the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. Business has always believed in the European project and supports it because of the benefits it brings to society as a whole. BUSINESSEUROPE supports a strong European Union capable of actions and able to deliver on reforms. But clearer objectives must be set, stronger focus on priorities must be ensured, and political will and support for these reforms must be more strongly shown. By doing this and progressing on these actions, we can make a success of a reinvigorated Europe.

We strongly support the German Presidency's intention of agreeing new arrangements before a newly elected European Parliament and a new European Commission are in place in 2009. BUSINESSEUROPE will actively participate in the events that will be organised in that context. 2007 is an important and decisive year for Europe and for the Constitutional Treaty. [Read more](#) or contact: [Jérôme Chauvin](#)

PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE AFFIRMS BUSINESS SUPPORT TO GERMAN EU PRESIDENCY



BDI President J. Thumann and President Seillière
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On 30 January, BUSINESSEUROPE President Seillière spoke at "Europe Day", a conference organised by German business federations BDA and BDI to mark the German EU Presidency. Chancellor Angela Merkel and Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen also participated in the high-level gathering at the House of German Industry in Berlin. President Seillière emphasised that all member federations of BUSINESSEUROPE unanimously back the German Presidency's efforts to solve the EU's constitutional crisis, reiterating the importance for European business of a strong political Europe in times of accelerated globalisation. He called for courageous better regulation actions throughout Europe, as well as completion of

the internal market. In that context, the fight against national protectionism is one of BUSINESSEUROPE's priorities. [Read more](#) or contact: [Folker Franz](#)

SAVE THE DOHA ROUND NOW

On 25 January, in advance of a crucial WTO ministerial meeting in Davos, BUSINESSEUROPE and six other business groups presented the joint business declaration "[Save the Doha Round now](#)" and a list of CEO messages in support of the resumption and ambitious conclusion of the WTO Doha Round. Business jointly called on all WTO members to revive the WTO Doha Round and conclude it successfully as soon as possible. WTO countries cannot allow the big potential gains of the Round for business and consumers worldwide to be lost because of disagreements on agriculture. The quotes of more than 40 business leaders show that business is fully behind the negotiators efforts to achieve ambitious results on industrial goods, services and trade facilitation in the DDA. [Read more](#) or contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)



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GENDER EQUALITY ON LABOUR MARKETS: SOCIAL PARTNERS ACTIVE TO REDUCE THE REMAINING GAPS

On 29 January 2007, European social partners BUSINESSEUROPE, ETUC, UEAPME and CEEP released the first annual report showing progress in implementation of their joint strategy in the field of gender equality. The [report](#) shows how employers and trade unions, through unilateral or joint activities, took actions to facilitate work-life balance, ensure equal pay and tackle labour market segregation. European social partners officially presented these first results at the launch of the “European Year of Equal Opportunities for All” in Berlin on 30 and 31 January 2007. [Read more](#) or contact: [Jeanne Schmitt](#)

BUSINESSEUROPE CALLS FOR AMBITION IN EU-MERCOSUR NEGOTIATIONS

At a seminar hosted by the Mercosur Chair at the Institut des Sciences Politiques on 25 January, BUSINESSEUROPE asserted industry’s continuing support for an ambitious EU-Mercosur deal. The lack of progress in the talks, which began in 1999, is extremely frustrating for EU companies, which face serious tariff and non-tariff barriers in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. BUSINESSEUROPE called on negotiators present to use the tentative momentum generated by the EU’s new trade strategy to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. Contact: [Eoin O’Malley](#)

EUROPEAN BUSINESS VOICES ITS VIEWS ON THE MADRID SYSTEM FOR TRADEMARKS

In view of upcoming discussions at WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, regarding legal developments in the Madrid system on the international registration of trademarks, BUSINESSEUROPE wrote to WIPO to ask for the so-called safeguard clause within the Madrid system to be maintained or its scope to be restricted to cover only certain features of the international procedure (in particular, the refusal period and the fee system). The safeguard clause foresees that where, with regard to a given international application or international registration, the country of origin is party to both the Madrid Protocol and the Madrid Agreement, which form the Madrid system, it is the provisions of the Agreement that remain applicable in relations between States bound by both treaties. [Read more](#) or contact: [Ilias Konteas](#)