



Wednesday, 7 February 2007

No. 2007-04**PRESIDENT SEILLIÈRE AT VNO-NCW BILDERBERG CONFERENCE**

BUSINESSEUROPE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière and Secretary General Philippe de Buck, among more than 400 participants, attended the VNO-NCW Bilderberg Conference on 2 and 3 February to discuss how to do business in the Europe of tomorrow. It was an opportunity for President Seillière to underline the priorities of BUSINESSEUROPE and to stress the importance of a common business message in this period of institutional uncertainty. [Read more](#) or contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

ENERGY: ACCELERATED EUROPEAN COOPERATION URGENTLY NEEDED

On 7 February, BUSINESSEUROPE Secretary General Philippe de Buck addressed the conference on Europe's energy challenge organised by the European People's Party and the European Ideas Network. Simply juxtaposing twenty-seven national energy policies cannot deliver the integrated and balanced solutions needed. This is why European business expect a strong signal from the European summit on 8 March, demonstrating political will to cooperate systematically in the future. It is essential that the EU energy strategy is designed on the bases of five principles: philosophy of market economics, competitiveness, keeping all energy options open, an active external policy in the area of energy and better regulation. [Read more](#) or contact: [Daniel Cloquet](#)

MAKING THE CASE FOR DOHA: BUSINESS GOES ON

On 2 February 2007, Adrian van den Hoven, BUSINESSEUROPE International Relations Director, participated in a trade policy conference organised by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Trade and Development Cooperation as well as prominent Danish parliamentarians and the European Commission's Director-General of DG Trade. The conference focused on three key issues of EU trade policy: reviving the WTO Doha Round; pursuing an effective EU bilateral trade strategy and the possible reform of trade defence instruments. BUSINESSEUROPE defended European business views at the conference by calling for an ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round, an effective bilateral trade strategy to drive economic growth and adopting a pragmatic approach to the possible reform of trade defence instruments. Debates at the conference centred around the risks of a WTO failure and reform of EU trade defence instruments. [Read more](#) or contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)

EUROPEAN PRIVATE COMPANY STATUTE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL

On 1 February the European Parliament adopted MEP Klaus-Heiner Lehne's (EPP-ED) own-initiative report on the European Private Company Statute. BUSINESSEUROPE has always supported such a statute and expects the Commission to take this report as a basis for a proposal for a regulation. It will be extremely beneficial for companies in terms of flexibility, reinforcing their presence in international markets and should reduce the administrative and financial burdens currently faced by EU companies, in particular SMEs. Contact: [Marta Alegrias](#)



Wednesday, 7 February 2007

No. 2007-04

GROWTH AND JOBS STRATEGY DISCUSSED WITH EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

On 2 February 2007, European social partners attended a meeting of the Employment Committee in order to exchange views on the employment dimension of the strategy for growth and jobs. Europe has made progress in integrating more people in the labour market. However, in view of population ageing and increasing global competition, it must step up its efforts to improve productivity and enhance the adaptability of workers. In addition, BUSINESSEUROPE updated the Employment Committee on implementation of the social partners' autonomous work programme. Contact: [Steven D'Haeseleer](#)

COMPETITIVENESS MUST BE AT THE HEART OF EU TRADE POLICY

On 24 January 2007, Reinhard Quick, vice-chairman of the BUSINESSEUROPE WTO working group, participated in a hearing organised by MEP D. Caspary on trade and competitiveness. As EP rapporteur on the issue, Mr Caspary wanted to hear BUSINESSEUROPE's views on the Commission's recent "Global Europe" communication. Overall, we support this communication and call on the Commission to work harder to promote the EU's economic and commercial interests in trade negotiations and through trade policies. The EU must place competitiveness at the heart of EU trade policy in a challenging global environment characterised by intense competition with emerging economies like China, India, Russia or Brazil. Contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)

BUSINESSEUROPE EMBRACES STOCK MARKET CONSOLIDATION

For European companies, the consolidation of stock markets is of high importance in order to increase the competitiveness of Europe's capital markets. Closer collaboration and mergers between stock exchanges can generate important savings in trading and listing costs. This leads to improved market liquidity and lower costs for the users of stock exchanges. Philippe de Buck wrote to Jean-Francois Théodore, Chairman of Euronext, first to congratulate him on the successful conclusions of negotiations with its shareholders on merging with the New York Stock Exchange, but also to draw attention to some key points for issuers and other stock exchange users: US rules and regulations regarding admission, listing, trading and reporting must not apply to companies listed on Euronext and not listed on NYSE; cost synergies realised through the merger must be passed on to shareholders and users alike; the procedures of the new entity must ensure active trading flows and efficient price formation. [Read more](#) or contact: [Barbara Stearns-Bläsing](#)