



Wednesday, 7 March 2007

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BUSINESSEUROPE PRESENTS MESSAGES TO THE SPRING SUMMIT



In a press conference on 5 March, President Seillière presented BUSINESSEUROPE's [political messages](#) to the Spring European Council 2007, which he had also expressed to German Chancellor and President of the European Council, Angela Merkel, in an open letter. On the growth and jobs strategy, the [European Reform Barometer](#) is an evaluation by national business federations on progress in economic reforms which are essential for growth and job creation. The evaluation shows that pace and scale of reforms must be stepped up considerably to meet Europe's challenges. On [energy and climate change](#), deep concerns were expressed about unilateral climate change targets and a possibly binding target for renewable energy in the EU. BUSINESSEUROPE urged a strengthening of the competitiveness dimension of the European Energy Action Plan, which is to be adopted at the Spring Council this week. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)

BUSINESS REMAINS KEEN ON A SOUND CONSUMER POLICY

On 5 March 2007 a BUSINESSEUROPE delegation headed by President Ernest-Antoine Seillière met Commissioner Meglena Kuneva to present its general priorities and explain to her the relevance and importance of a sound and balanced consumer policy for companies. BUSINESSEUROPE also stressed its strong support for better regulation in the area of consumer policy. Participants exchanged views on specific topics on Commissioner Kuneva's agenda: collective redress, review of the acquis, contract law, dialogue. [Read more](#) or contact: [Jérôme Chauvin](#)

CHINA: BUSINESSEUROPE SUPPORTS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EU

At a conference organised by the British Business Bureau (CBI) in London on 2 March, Adrian van den Hoven, BUSINESSEUROPE Director for International Relations, presented EU business views on how to strengthen EU-China relations. To take advantage of the opportunities in China, the EU must reinforce its action to remove market access barriers in China such as non-tariff barriers, restrictions on foreign investment or lax enforcement of intellectual property rights. Concretely, BUSINESSEUROPE would like the EU to address the investment concerns of EU companies in China in the negotiation of a new EU-China partnership and cooperation agreement this year. Such an agreement should focus on economic issues and be distinct from political cooperation agreements. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez-Finat](#)



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CALL FOR TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

As discussions intensify on how to remove barriers to transatlantic trade and investment in the lead-up to the April 30 EU-US summit, BUSINESSEUROPE is calling for the launch of negotiations on a binding framework agreement for transatlantic economic relations. A step change in the approach for dealing with these barriers is needed to ensure real progress is made towards the goal of a barrier-free transatlantic market. The agreement should fully involve the legislatures on both sides of the Atlantic and cover a broad range of areas including regulatory cooperation and investment. [Read more](#) or contact: [Eoin O'Malley](#)

BUSINESSEUROPE AT UMCE II COMPETITIVENESS DAY, "MED ESPAÑA"

Ulysses Kyriacopoulos, BUSINESSEUROPE Special Representative for Mediterranean Affairs, was present at UMCE II Competitiveness Day organised by the Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (UMCE) and the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain in Valencia on 27-28 February. The Euro-Mediterranean business community is a strong supporter of the Barcelona Process and of completion of a Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade Area by 2010 as it firmly believes in the strategic importance of this region. The objective of the conference was to promote foreign direct investment in the Mediterranean partner countries, encouraging cooperation between companies as a strategy to increase competitiveness on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. Mr Kyriacopoulos stressed the need for BUSINESSEUROPE and its sister organisation jointly to intervene vis-à-vis the institutions, governments and civil society to show the advantages that an integrated Euro-Mediterranean area can bring to everyone if fully exploited. [Read more](#) or contact: [María Soriano Sanchez](#)

RENEWED EFFORT URGED IN WTO NEGOTIATIONS

In a letter to Commissioner Mandelson, BUSINESSEUROPE has called for further efforts for an ambitious outcome of the industrial and services talks at the WTO. Market access to major emerging and developed markets can only be achieved through a combination of an ambitious tariff formula for industrial goods complemented by sectoral agreements. Flexibilities for the developing countries should only be linked to the level of ambition of the tariff formula. Furthermore, BUSINESSEUROPE calls for determined movement on non-tariff barriers which are undermining the competitiveness of EU industries. We also expect the Commission to press the case for a successful deal on services, which will require much more work than agreeing on formulae. [Read more](#) or contact: [Adrian van den Hoven](#)