



Wednesday, 18 April 2007

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BUSINESSEUROPE IN NEW YORK CITY TO DISCUSS EU-US INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

During a visit to New York in the week of 9 April, BUSINESSEUROPE Secretary General, Philippe de Buck, addressed a combined meeting of the Belgian, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Austrian and American Chambers of Commerce on the [state of the European Union as seen by the business community](#). Mr de Buck also met the United States Council for International Business and the American Business Forum on Europe to discuss the [international agenda](#), in particular the transatlantic agenda, and to prepare business participation in the EU-US Summit on 30 April. Finally there was a contact with Euronext in order to present BUSINESSEUROPE's views on the financial aspects of the transatlantic agenda and convergence programme. Contact: [Philippe de Buck](#)

PETER MANDELSON INVITED TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR MARKET ACCESS

Philippe de Buck, BUSINESSEUROPE Secretary General, participated on 18 April in a press conference with EU Commissioner for Trade Peter Mandelson to launch the new Commission market access strategy. This strategy focuses on trade and investment barriers faced by EU business in non-EU countries and how to tackle them. BUSINESSEUROPE fully supports a more effective and dynamic market access strategy which delivers results for European companies by facilitating market access in emerging countries. To that end, BUSINESSEUROPE calls for better structured coordination with EU Member States in foreign countries, and with business through better follow-up on the removal of trade and investment barriers. [Read more](#), check the [market access database](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez](#)

EARMARK FUNDS TOWARDS COMPETITIVENESS

On 17 April, a BUSINESSEUROPE delegation headed by Mr de Buck, Secretary General, and Mr Mingasson, General Adviser, had an exchange of views with Mr Böge, Chairman of the Committee of Budget at the European Parliament. Discussions focused on Parliament actions regarding the forthcoming review of the EU budget in 2008/09, the financial perspectives and the redeployment of funds from non-performing projects. BUSINESSEUROPE clearly stated that if the EU budget is to deliver, the earmarking of funds towards competitiveness agreed by the European Council has to be fully implemented. Contact: [Eva Maria Revilla](#)

TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE AND BALANCED GROWTH IN THE EURO AREA

BUSINESSEUROPE's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee, chaired by Sandro Trento, organised a seminar on 16 April to discuss the governance of monetary union. Three guest speakers – Marco Buti from the Commission, Philippe Moutot from the European Central Bank and Jean Pisani-Ferry from Bruegel think tank – debated with BUSINESSEUROPE experts the actions needed to improve growth prospects and overcome divergences between euro-area countries. A consensus emerged around the need for stronger fiscal consolidation in good times, faster market integration, higher wage responsiveness, and more labour market flexibility in general. Following the seminar, BUSINESSEUROPE plans to publish a report on key recommendations to improve the functioning of monetary union. Contact: [Marc Stocker](#)



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US, EU BUSINESS TOGETHER IN OPPOSITION TO US PROPOSALS ON 100% SCANNING OF CONTAINERS

In a joint letter to US Congress representatives, BUSINESSEUROPE and the US Chamber of Commerce underlined their strong objection to US proposed provisions which would require 100% scanning of cargo containers bound for the US. If enacted, these provisions would disrupt the global flow of trade and impose costly mandates on transatlantic business without providing additional security. Requiring 100% scanning contravenes the existing risk-based approach to security, which business supports. Instead, the US Chamber of Commerce and BUSINESSEUROPE firmly believe the United States and the EU should address container security through established, multilateral institutions, such as the World Customs Organization. BUSINESSEUROPE underlined its position and concerns on 16 April, at a meeting with Assistant Commissioner Mullen from US Customs. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Gonzalez](#)

REVISION OF EU CONSUMER LEGISLATION: SET PRIORITIES FIRST!

Further to the Commission's green paper on the review of the consumer acquis, the European Parliament Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee held a public hearing on 10 April in Brussels. Academics, consumers and business representatives expressed their views and questions about the objectives and the way forward for the consumer acquis. BUSINESSEUROPE was represented by Eric Jourde, from the French business federation MEDEF, who stressed that the good functioning of the internal market and respect of the better regulation agenda are primordial aspects to be taken into account in this debate. Mr Jourde also called for a clear identification of existing shortcomings and priorities for future action. [Read more](#) or contact: [Carlos Almaraz](#)

PROPORTIONALITY: FREEDOM OF CONTRACT AND TRANSPARENCY MUST PREVAIL

In a recently adopted position paper, BUSINESSEUROPE stresses that any action at EU level in the field of proportionality between ownership and control should be based on freedom of contract. Companies should be free to decide upon which share structure suits them best as long as there is full transparency. It is essential that a company's share structure is not restricted by making one particular share system mandatory. [Read more](#) or contact: [Marta Alegrias](#)

WIDE-RANGING REVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVE ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SITES

On 18 April, Alexandre Paquot from the European Commission presented to the BUSINESSEUROPE Environment Working Group the Commission's plans on how to revise the so-called Integrated Production and Prevention Control directive, which stipulates environmental rules for permitting and controlling industrial installations in Europe. The Commission intends to make use of the current ten-year revision of the 1996 Directive to extend the scope of the directive and to streamline interactions with other pieces of environmental legislation. One possible option for the revision would be to create one single framework directive, integrating various domains and sectors currently covered in other directives. An official proposal for a revised directive is due to be presented at the end of 2007. BUSINESSEUROPE will actively participate in the ongoing stakeholder consultation. Contact: [Folker Franz](#)