



17 October 2007

Dear Ms Lagarde,
Dear Mr Juncker,
Dear Mr Padoa-Schioppa,
Dear Mr Steinbrück,

For European companies, the unduly rapid movements on foreign exchange markets are an increasing source of concern, with the euro and other European currencies reaching historically high levels in recent months. As presidents of BDI, Confindustria, Medef and BUSINESSEUROPE, we urge you to defend the common European interest in an orderly adjustment of global exchange rates and current account balances at the next G7 meeting starting on 19 October.

Persistent disequilibria in the world economy continue to harbour the danger of further appreciation of European currencies in the face of large external deficits in the US and inflexible currency regimes in other parts of the world. Solutions must be sought first and foremost within the sphere of multilateral consultations, and notably with clear commitments in the G7.

Reducing global imbalances while preserving strong growth calls for measures to alleviate downward pressures on the US dollar, to induce Chinese authorities to significantly revalue their currency, to let the yen better reflect Japan's large current account surplus, and to step up reforms for competitiveness and higher productivity growth in Europe.

The European business community is counting on your support and expects clear and common signs that would help to foster confidence and encourage companies to continue investing and hiring to support self-sustaining growth on our continent.

Yours sincerely,

Laurence Parisot
President of MEDEF

Luca Cordero di Montezemolo
President of CONFINDUSTRIA

Juergen R. Thumann
President of BDI

Ernest-Antoine Seillière
President of BUSINESSEUROPE