



THE SECRETARY GENERAL



President Jose Manuel Barroso
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels

3 September 2008

Dear President,

On June 4, BUSINESSEUROPE hosted a Ukrainian business delegation led by the Confederation of Employers of Ukraine in Brussels. In this business-to-business meeting, issues such as the EU-Ukraine free trade agreement cross border investment opportunities and obstacles to creating a common market were discussed. EU and Ukrainian business organisations are advocating for a much closer and deeper economic partnership.

In the enclosed joint statement, both organisations express strong support for the efforts by the EU and Ukraine to negotiate an ambitious free trade agreement. However, we are concerned with the lack of implementation and enforcement of international commitments in Ukraine which could impede mutually beneficial economic and political relations. We therefore call on government leaders to devote more attention and resources to address this challenge.

Due to capacity constraints in the Ukrainian administration, more resources are needed to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of international agreements. The EU and Ukraine should consider upgrading technical capacity building programmes especially for ministries and agencies dealing with economic affairs. We are convinced that Member States of the European Union, in particular newly acceded members, can make a valuable contribution to capacity building by sharing their experience in adopting necessary legal and procedural reforms with their Ukrainian counterparts.

BUSINESSEUROPE and the Confederation of Employers of Ukraine call on EU and Ukrainian leaders to move forward with free trade negotiations rapidly while ensuring that appropriate measures are adopted to guarantee effective implementation of new rules and policies at the 9 September EU-Ukraine Political Summit. At the business level, our organisations will also step up cooperation to encourage more cross-border trade and investment for the benefit of both economies.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck
Secretary General

Olexiy Miroshnichenko
Executive Vice President