



BUSINESSEUROPE

THE PRESIDENT

Mr José Manuel Barroso  
President  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

14 November 2008

Dear President,

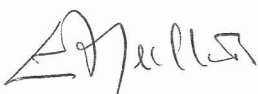
The issue of granting Market Economy Status to China has featured prominently on the EU-China agenda since China's WTO accession in 2001, and we acknowledge that economic ties between EU and China have further strengthened and mutual benefits have improved over the past years. However, BUSINESSEUROPE would like to stress that Market Economy Status is linked to the fulfilment of five very specific technical criteria. These point to essential market operating features in respect of which there should be no distortion in the Chinese market. At the current stage, except for the second criterion on privatisation and barter trade, we are not convinced that this is the case. More progress needs to be made on the other criteria. Even where appropriate legislation has been introduced, effective implementation still has to follow.

BUSINESSEUROPE therefore calls upon the European Commission to ensure that the issue of Market Economy Status is dealt with on its merits. At this stage, we would oppose any attempts to trade off Market Economy Status against another issue in EU-China relations.

We hope that you will support this position and we are at your disposal should you need additional information. A copy of this letter has been sent to Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and to External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

Yours sincerely,

*et très amicalement,*



Ernest-Antoine Seillière