



24 February 2009

MEETING BETWEEN BUSINESSEUROPE AND THE FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS UKRAINE

25 FEBRUARY 2009

European companies and Ukraine: 'opportunities and concerns'

- The European Union is Ukraine's **main trading partner** since the enlargements of 2004 and 2006. Main EU exports include: machinery, transport equipment and chemicals. Main EU imports: agricultural products and energy.
- To facilitate these trade flows, the European Commission is negotiating a deep and comprehensive **free trade agreement** (DCFTA) with Ukraine. The aim of these negotiations is to eliminate tariffs duties and to encourage regulatory convergence (Ukraine will approximate significant parts of the EU acquis). BUSINESSEUROPE is in favour of these negotiations and expects an ambitious conclusion.
- BUSINESSEUROPE is concerned however that Ukraine will have serious difficulties **to implement** the rules it agrees upon in international and bilateral negotiations. Although Ukraine became a member of the World Trade Organisation, its implementation of WTO rules has been erratic. Part of the problem lies with the Parliament of Ukraine, which is a stronghold for Ukrainian industrialists – often members themselves – who oppose trade liberalisation.
- BUSINESSEUROPE has urged the European Commission on several occasions to be more vigilant in ensuring that implementation can be guaranteed, for example by offering enhanced capacity building.

Strengthening of business organisations

- BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the inquiry from the Ukrainian employers to take part in capacity-building programmes for employer's organisations.

