



Mr Mirek Topolanek
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Dear Prime Minister,

In light of the 2 April G20 Summit where you will represent the European Union, I would like to highlight some key issues on the agenda for European business.

1. The priority to fight against the global recession is to restore access to finance for companies. The G20 can play a key role by developing concrete solutions to shore-up trade finance through the coordinated action of governments, public agencies and multilateral development banks. It can also ensure that a common approach is taken to support commercial banks in distress and to ensure the necessary restructuring of the banking sector to allow it to operate under market conditions. The G20 should also work toward balanced financial market reforms based on principles of transparency, better risk management, enhanced cross-border oversight and internationally comparable accounting and capital requirements rules. To improve access to finance for emerging countries that are affected by the global crisis, the G20 can increase the financial capabilities of the International Monetary Fund to support countries facing solvency problems as well as extend lending to fundamentally sound emerging economies through the new flexible credit line facility.
2. Economic stimulus plans are vital to stabilise the global economy in the short-term and to restore confidence for a swift return to growth and job creation. By investing in future growth, developing smart infrastructures and cleaner technologies, governments can use stimulus plans as tools for sustainable economic development. However, G20 countries should ensure that national stimulus measures do not harm trade partners, but rather build on positive cross-border spill over effects.



3. The G20 must do more in the fight against protectionism. The WTO is the only available tool available to do this. The second report of the WTO Director General on the Economic Crisis and Trade-Related Developments dated 26 March 2009 has demonstrated that protectionist measures are clearly on the rise globally. For this reason, G20 should be prepared to explain, justify or defend any future protectionist measures before the WTO monitoring system. An effective WTO monitoring system will provide governments with an escape route to avoid caving in to protectionist pressures from interest groups immediately. To truly combat protectionism, G20 members should clearly reaffirm their commitment to liberalise global trade by concluding the Doha Round this year. It is especially important for the EU to convince the US President to reengage the US Government in the Doha negotiations on the basis of the existing draft agreements at the G20 Summit.

We count on your leadership during the G20 Summit to work actively toward restoring global growth.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest-Antoine Seillière