



19 June 2009

### **REMARKS FOR MEETING MR CHRIS WILSON, ASSISTANT US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

#### **Doha**

The EU and the U.S. have one issue on their collective agenda, which has huge potential to send a positive signal to the world economy – completion of the Doha Development Agenda. Doha remains the top priority of the European business community in the international arena. European companies were disappointed that an ambitious deal could not be reached in July or December of 2008. Nonetheless we are committed to working with our U.S. and other counterparts around the world to push for a successful conclusion.

BUSINESSEUROPE very much welcomes the renewed commitment that USTR Kirk has made to the conclusion of the Round since he has taken office. Companies would also be willing to explore U.S. proposals on constructive avenues to address their concerns in relation to market access, provided that existing agreements on modalities are respected. What is needed now is a roadmap for action on Doha to set the process in motion. A number of meetings at Ministerial level will take place over the coming months. Ministers need to put this roadmap together so that we can finally get the ambitious deal that is needed at this difficult juncture.

#### **Transatlantic Economic Council**

BUSINESSEUROPE is deeply concerned that the outcome of the first economic crisis of the 21st century will be a disintegration of the transatlantic market. The different regulatory regimes that will apply to markets, risk creating new barriers to the growth of the transatlantic economy even as the EU and U.S. try to pull us out of recession and similar concerns arise in the field of energy and climate policy.

It is the proper role of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) to avoid this outcome. TEC was established to bring political action to bear on the long standing effort to ensure necessary regulation doesn't create unnecessary barriers to job-creating trade and investment. In a time such as ours this role is vital.



The next TEC meeting in the autumn should have four priorities:

Clearly the first must be a contribution, in areas where it can indeed help, to solving the economic crisis.

The TEC could lay down common exit strategies for government involvement in the private sector. Governments on both sides have taken an extraordinary involvement in private companies. Joint approaches to exiting these markets would minimise distortions to competition and avoid subsequent disputes at the WTO.

It should also establish a crisis-related work programme for financial sector regulation and keep a watchful eye over efforts currently in motion. Companies need financial sector regulation that restores confidence and balances stability and innovation. The EU and US are coordinating their regulatory response through the G20 but the unique depth transatlantic financial markets mean that a more intense bilateral dialogue is necessary.

TEC leaders also need to address the issue of protectionism. The Buy American provisions in the US stimulus package are a cause for concern on the US side for example.

The second priority must be clean energy and energy efficient technologies, which are at the core of US and European efforts to lay the economic foundations for the 21st century and tackle climate change. The TEC should mandate all concerned agencies to see transatlantic cooperation as an integral part of their work in this key area. Economic and environmental benefits will only come with the establishment of global markets for these innovative products and services.

Thirdly, the autumn meeting should begin discussions on a vision for the end result of the TEC process. The creation of the TEC has without doubt led to the most intense period of economic and regulatory cooperation ever seen between the EU and the US. Yet there are still many challenges to be overcome. Inspired by the urgency of the current need for cooperation, the TEC should therefore begin a conversation on how to take economic integration to the next level, with all options, including new agreements, on the table. We recognize, however, that such discussions will require time and effort and must take place in parallel to urgent, ongoing substantive work.

Which brings me to the fourth point: keeping up the momentum on ongoing work to boost trade and investment. The TEC has a broad range of issues from, 100% container scanning, to intellectual property rights, to horizontal regulatory cooperation, where urgent progress is needed. Although the crisis demands attention, we cannot afford to let the existing agenda slip.

