

EU-ARAB BUSINESS FACILITATION NETWORK: Kick-off Conference

Brussels, 16-17 September 2010

BUSINESSEUROPE Adrian van den Hoven



General Introduction: Members and structure

40 MEMBER FEDERATIONS FROM 34 COUNTRIES

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE BUREAU

DIRECTOR GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PERMANENT DELEGATES

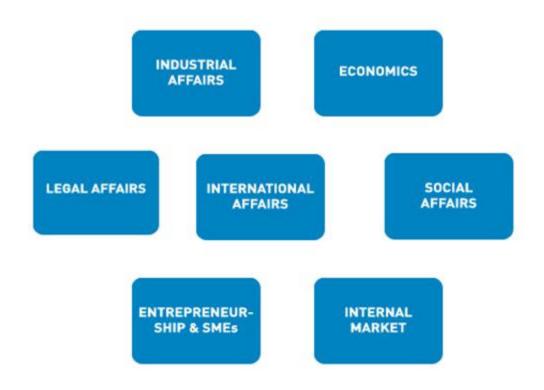
Advisory and Support Group Members

BUSINESSEUROPE is the voice of business in Europe and represents around 20 million enterprises





7 Policy Committees







Messages to the European Commission

- Fixing the financial system and restoring credit flows
- Implementing reforms to attract investment and innovation
- Developing a viable exit strategy to excessive public deficits
- Boosting skills and human capital for the recovery
- Bolstering open trade and fighting protectionism
- Ensuring global commitments to fight climate change



International Issues



EU Trade Negotiations (2010)

- WTO: Technical phase of negotiations
- FTAs
 - South Korea
 - Canada
 - India
 - EU-Mercosur

Mediterranean angle:

- Libya FTA
- Expanding existing FTAs with many Southern Med countries (Morocco, Israel, etc.)
- EU-GCC





International issues

Bilateral Political & Business Summits in 2010

Mediterranean Angle during the Spanish Presidency

- Morocco Business Summit (March 2010)
- Euro-Med Business Days (June 2010)





Euro-Mediterranean Network

- Chairman Mr Ioannis Patsiavos, SEV, Greece
- Informal Network

Meetings:

 Attendance from business: Sector Federations, BUSINESSEUROPE Members, AS Group members





Euro-Mediterranean Network

Overarching Strategy:

- Strengthen bilateral relations with the South Mediterranean countries
- Reinforce competitiveness of the Mediterranean area
- Boost investment in the Southern Mediterranean
- Support SMEs





Euro-Med Business Declarations

- Marseilles, Athens and Barcelona business declarations, 2008, 2009 and 2010
- Euro-Med business partners working together -BUSINESSEUROPE, EUROCHAMBRES, BUSINESSMED, ANIMA, ASCAME, etc.
- The goals:
 - Boost intra-regional trade (south-south and north-south)
 - Increase foreign direct investment
 - Establish macro-economic stability targets and a good regulatory environment for investment





Euro-Med Business Declarations

- The pillars of action:
 - Improving the trade and investment climate
 - Improving macro-economic stability
 - Improving financial and regulatory Instruments
 - Actively fighting protectionism
 - Protection of IPR
 - Emphasizing on education and innovation
 - Responding to the employment challenge
 - Addressing security issues





Relations with the European Commission

DG Trade

- Civil Society Dialogue
- Contact with country desks
- Contact with Industry unit

DG Enterprise

- Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise
- Euro-Med co-operation in the field of industry is structured in a work-programme, adopted on a 2-year basis by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial conference on industry.





Relations with the European Commission

- Business calls on the Commission and on EU and Mediterranean governments to:
 - Review, deepen and complete all bilateral free trade agreements.
 - Including binding measures to safeguard investments Algeria example.
 - Establish a comprehensive and ambitious agreement in the Euro-Med area, on industrial products, services and agriculture.





Special Relation with BUSINESSMED

- BUSINESSMED (2002) Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises
- President: Mr Galal El Zorba (Egypt)
- Overlapping membership (MEDEF, BDA, CEOE, etc.)





The Future: Union for the Mediterranean

The UfM

- Headquarters in Barcelona
- The mandate of the Secretariat is of a technical nature with a focus on the projects.
- The Secretariat will have a key role within the institutional architecture.
- The UfM has not lived up to its high expectations
- Business emphasizes the importance of efficient governance of the UfM
- The UfM must be a tool for business development





Conclusion

- The Mediterranean: Natural partner for Europe
- Scope for greatly increased trade and investment but hampered by:
 - Lack of south-south integration
 - Difficult business climate
 - Lack of long-term security of investments





Thank you very much for your attention

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