

Brussels, 15 October 2010

EU-MERCOSUR FTA: BUSINESSEUROPE and Brazilian Business Affairs Call for Progress

On 14 October 2010, BUSINESSEUROPE and Brazilian Business Affairs co-hosted, in Brussels, a meeting between the lead negotiators of the European Union, M. João Aguiar Machado and MERCOSUR, Ambassador Evandro Didonet of Brazil, and business representatives of both trade blocs.

Business representatives welcomed the resumption of negotiations and expressed their desire to achieve a balanced and ambitious Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and MERCOSUR as soon as feasible.

With unprecedented cooperation between the business representatives of the EU and MERCOSUR countries and with fast growing trade in goods, services, agricultural products and increasing investments, the EU and MERCOSUR stand to gain tremendously from an ambitious agreement.

Business leaders highlighted a number of technical and sector issues to be addressed in the agreement in areas covering tariffs, non-tariff barriers and regulation.

The next EU-MERCOSUR round of negotiations and parallel meeting between business representatives and lead negotiators will take in Brazil before the end of 2010. EU and MERCOSUR business representatives will continue to champion the negotiations and support the negotiators in a constructive way.

BUSINESSEUROPE is the main horizontal business organization at EU level. Through its 40 member federations, BUSINESSEUROPE represents 20 million companies from 34 countries.

Brazilian Business Affairs is CNI's (National Confederation of Industry - Brazil) and Apex-Brazil's (Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency) representation office with the European Union. CNI represents 27 Industry Federations in the states and Federal District, over a thousand associated sectoral employers' organizations and 196,000 industrial establishments.

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