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TRADE POLICY NEEDS TO DELIVER

The Commission has today released a Communication on EU trade policy, building on the Global Europe Communication of 2006. Considering the hugely beneficial impact of trade on the economic recovery in Europe, the Communication rightly emphasises how trade policy can contribute to growth in the EU through ambitious market-access targets, the removal of non-tariff barriers and stronger rules for investment, intellectual property rights and procurement in all future multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.

BUSINESSEUROPE applauds the Communication's renewed focus on enforcement and Commissioner De Gucht's plans to pursue strategic and economic dialogues with the EU's main economic partners: the US, Japan, China, India, Russia and Brazil.

More needs to be done however in the years to come to improve market access for European companies in emerging economies, including through further cutting tariffs on industrial goods. The WTO Doha Round remains an important priority in this respect. The EU should also do more to put in place an economic dimension of EU foreign policy, notably through support from the External Action Service for international business development.

Philippe de Buck, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE said: *"This strategy sets out the right fundamentals of EU trade policy for the years to come. However, it is the results that matter for business. I therefore call on Commissioner de Gucht to champion market access for European companies in emerging markets"*.

BUSINESSEUROPE's views on external competitiveness can be downloaded on its website (<http://www.businessseurope.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=658>).

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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