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Contact:

Pablo Zalba Bidegain
Committee on International Trade
European Parliament
Bât. Altiero Spinelli
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussel

21 March 2012

Dear Mr Zalba Bidegain,

BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the initialing on 22 March 2012, of the Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union. This ambitious agreement represents concrete proof of the long-standing commitment between the European Union and the Central American Region.

BUSINESSEUROPE strongly support the comprehensive trade pillar of the Association Agreement. This Free Trade Agreement will lead to a deeper integration and a boost to growth to both regions. Trade relation between the European Union and Central America have picked up after a slump in 2008-2009. Total trade in goods between the EU and the Central American Region totaled €12.1 billion in 2010.

Central America will see direct benefits of an FTA agreement through greater choice and lower prices and more jobs. Moreover investment opportunities will allow the Central American economies to diversify, bring in technology and innovation and support stronger economic growth.

BUSINESSEUROPE calls on the European Parliament to strongly support the EU-Central American Association Agreement ratification process.

Sincerely yours,

Adrian van den Hoven