

PRESS RELEASE

WTO stalemate: European businesses urge action on Doha negotiations

Too much time has been lost already. European businesses urge all WTO member governments to make their contribution to revive the Doha Round and conclude it successfully as soon as possible.

This is the joint appeal launched today by EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and six other business organisations*, sharing deep concern over the current impasse in WTO negotiations.

Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“Doha is good for European business and in particular for European SMEs: more sustainable markets and more predictable rules. A failure of this round could jeopardize 60 years of global economic integration. Which political leader would take that responsibility?”*

The key to success is to overcome disagreement over certain aspects of agricultural policy such as agricultural protectionism, which raises prices for consumers and hinders imports from poorer countries. If farmers need support, less trade-distorting methods should be used.

EUROCHAMBRES and its partners call upon all WTO members, including the EU and the US, to take responsibility to resume the Doha Round, starting on 27 January at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

* AmCham EU, BUSINESSEUROPE (The Confederation of European Business), ESF (European Services Forum), EuroCommerce, FTA (Foreign Trade Association) and TABD (Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue).

The joint declaration “European Business for Doha” can be downloaded from http://www.eurochambres.eu/PDF/pdf_trade/070125-BusinessForDoha/Joint%20Declaration.pdf

The quotes of European CEOs in support of the Doha Round can be downloaded from http://www.eurochambres.eu/PDF/pdf_trade/070125-BusinessForDoha/Quotes%20of%20CEOs.pdf

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