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EU-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement: business calls for progress

BUSINESSEUROPE, EUROCHAMBRES, Brazilian Business Affairs and the MERCOSUR-EU Business Forum call on the negotiators of the EU-MERCOSUR FTA to make significant progress in the next round negotiations taking place in Brussels next week.

Business supports a balanced and ambitious Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and MERCOSUR as soon as possible. The FTA will stimulate much needed growth in EU countries and ensure faster growth in MERCOSUR countries. If ambitious and balanced, the EU-MERCOSUR FTA will create tens of thousands of jobs and billions of Euros of additional trade and investment over the next few years in both regions. A successful conclusion of the EU-MERCOSUR FTA will reduce uncertainty for companies and investors.

The EU is currently MERCOSUR's largest trading partner representing 20.7% of MERCOSUR trade as well as the largest investor in the region with a total of €165 billion investment. 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 representatives on both sides of the Atlantic are ready to continue to support the negotiators in a constructive way. We call on the negotiators to move forward on all fronts to ensure a balanced and ambitious FTA as soon as feasible.

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

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EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 93% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.

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Brazilian Business Affairs is CNI's (National Confederation of Industry - Brazil) and Apex-Brasil's (Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency) representation office to 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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MERCOSUR-EU Business Forum (MEBF) aims at fostering trade and business relations between the EU and the MERCOSUR countries by establishing a permanent dialogue between the business communities and the political leaders of the two regions.