

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Global Chamber Platform: Hong Kong must not become a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cancún!**

The Global Chamber Platform (GCP) which links Chambers around the world launched a strong appeal to political leaders to achieve progress at the 6<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong at the end of the year.

At their meeting in the framework of EUROCHAMBRES Annual Congress in Stavanger (Norway), Christoph Leidl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“After the failure in Cancún on all accounts, the stalled Doha negotiations need a definite breakthrough. Another Cancún would ‘kill’ all credibility of the multilateral system, which is already undermined by bilateral agreements. Hong Kong will be a make or break decision whether WTO members are able to commit to the benefits of global trade or whether national egoism will prevail.”*

For the Global Chamber Platform – the key objective of which is to facilitate trade and market access – multilateralism is still a better and more coherent answer to the challenges of globalisation.

GCP members urge actions from the WTO members in particular in the following areas:

**Development:** Developed countries need to make an effort to meet the needs of the developing countries. The latter need long term financial and technical assistance, transition periods and capacity-building programmes if they are to comply with WTO regulation.

**Tariffs and non-tariff barriers:** Reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers remains essential in the Doha Round. Negotiations covering non-tariff barriers are lagging behind in the negotiations.

**Services:** WTO members must commit themselves to further action to improve market access. The quality and depth of negotiations on services are lacking in ambition.

**Trade facilitation:** Procedures must be made more transparent and simplified. Best practices in reforming trade procedures should be spread among WTO members.

**Agriculture:** WTO members must agree on concrete measures aimed at substantially reducing export subsidies and protectionist measures, as these harm consumers, taxpayers and the export capability of developing countries.

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EUROCHAMBRES has member organisations in 44 countries representing a network of 2,000 regional and local Chambers with over 18 million member companies.

Members of the Global Chamber Platform are:

- Association of ACP National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ibero-American Association of Chambers of Commerce (AICO)
- Asociación Industrial Latino-Americana (AILA)
- Association of Mediterranean CCIs (ASCAME)
- Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI)
- Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)
- China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCOIC/CCPIT)
- Federation of GCC Chambers (FGCCC)
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines
- Junior Chamber International
- Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation
- SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- EUROCHAMBRES, Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Observer: US Chamber of Commerce

**Note to the editor:**

EUROCHAMBRES – created in 1958, one year after the birth of the European Communities – is the Brussels based Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. EUROCHAMBRES has member organisations in 44 countries representing a network of 2,000 regional and local Chambers with over 18 million member companies. Chamber members employ over 120 million employees.

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