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Leading U.S. and European Business Groups Call for Progress on Doha Round

EU-US Summit Seen as Opportunity for Leaders to Provide Much Needed Momentum

The American Business Coalition for Doha (ABCDoha) and the Confederation of European Business (UNICE) are strong and active supporters of an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive outcome to the Doha round negotiations.

Our organizations represent a significant cross-section of American and European businesses, many of whom are increasingly concerned that the Doha round is not on track to deliver the ambitious results that businesses need.

The core objective of multilateral trade negotiations is to generate new opportunities for businesses from all participating countries to sell more of their goods and services around the world, thereby promoting sustainable economic growth and enabling poverty reduction. We can ensure adequate flexibilities for the poorest developing countries while at the same time achieve real new market opening in developed and emerging country markets alike.

Such market opening will be the benchmark of a successful round. Business on both sides of the Atlantic refuses to write a blank check for any result. Without demonstrable progress on market access, business support for the round will erode.

We have reached a critical juncture in the Doha negotiations, requiring direction and political will at the highest levels. We urge leaders meeting in Vienna for the EU-US Summit next week to take the necessary steps to put Doha back on a productive track. The EU and US must work together if a meaningful result is to be achieved.

Negotiators must bring expanded mandates and a sense of urgency to their work in Geneva in order to reach agreement on negotiating modalities before the August break, an imperative if negotiations are to conclude successfully by the end of this year.

The American Business Coalition for Doha (ABCDoha) is an umbrella group representing the diverse interests of service-providers, manufacturers, agriculture, customs facilitators, and many other stakeholders all dedicated to achieving an ambitious result from the Doha Round in 2006.

www.ABCDoha.org

UNICE is the voice of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

www.UNICE.org