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EUROPEAN INDUSTRY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE TO LAUNCH NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA)

Brussels, 23 of October - BUSINESSEUROPE, AIM, IFPI and IFSP representing a wide range of industry sectors have been actively involved in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy at all levels. They endorse initiatives that can further improve the fight against this scourge. In this context, they support the announcement today by EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson to open negotiations on a new IP Enforcement Agreement together with the US, Japan, Korea and Switzerland.

This Agreement aimed at strengthening the enforcement of intellectual property rights has the potential to be an important tool in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy, since the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated products poses an ever increasing threat to the world economy, as well as to the health and safety of consumers. Piracy and counterfeiting leaves no sector untouched be it medicines that are fake, toys that are faulty or pirated music and films on the internet.

Cooperation with our major trading partners to combat the growing illegal trade is a key element in this fight. We look forward to seeing more details of the intended international agreement, which we hope will lead to the establishment of best enforcement practices, not only among the founding parties but also throughout the world.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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