



## PRESS RELEASE

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### CONCLUDE THE DOHA ROUND NOW

**In anticipation of a meeting of Trade Ministers being called by WTO Director General Pascal Lamy in Geneva in December in order to reach agreement on a framework for a final deal in the world trade talks, European Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and BUSINESSEUROPE President Ernest-Antoine Seillière met today in Paris and discussed the interest of European business in this regard.**

They welcomed the fact that world leaders meeting recently in both Washington (G20) and Lima (APEC) have spoken in the strongest and most unambiguous manner ever in favour of concluding a world trade deal. Trade Ministers have been given very clear instructions to get back to work and agree on the final steps for an agreement in the coming weeks. The economic crisis and the very widespread political support for a deal have generated a new urgency and importance to conclude the Doha round, in particular to fight protectionism which would worsen the impact of the crisis on European business. European business needs secure and improved market access to emerging countries and other developed countries. An ambitious and balanced world trade deal can provide this and is within our grasp. With determination and hard work, negotiators can finalise a deal that would immediately boost confidence and generate much needed growth and jobs. The benefits of an ambitious and balanced deal would be measured in the hundreds of billions of euros. This is not something Europe can afford to do without in the current economic crisis.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière said: *"We want Commissioner Ashton to go to Geneva in mid-December to finalise the core issues of the Doha Round. This is vital to prevent rising protectionism during the financial crisis. At this stage of the negotiations, we need a strong focus on industrial market access – especially on possible sectoral tariff agreements with developed and emerging nations. This will be a huge step toward concluding this very important trade round for the benefit of all companies."*

Catherine Ashton said: *"I welcome the support of BUSINESSEUROPE for concluding an ambitious and balanced Doha deal. I will push strongly for more open markets with my fellow negotiators in Geneva and will strive to conclude a deal which prevents any return to protectionism."*

#### 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 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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