



16 June 2009

### EUROPEAN COUNCIL: URGENT NEED FOR BUSINESS-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

At his last press conference as President of BUSINESSEUROPE, Ernest-Antoine Seillière presented the [letter](#) that BUSINESSEUROPE has sent Mr Jan Fischer, President of the European Council ahead of this week's meeting.

- Companies are key to solving the crisis as they are the ones with the potential to create jobs and growth. To do that, Europe and its member states require a sound financial system, a well functioning internal market, sustainable macroeconomic policies and a strong commitment to structural reforms.
- European business needs undistorted competition and a level playing field at both European and global level. Europe must fight protectionism and ensure that the Doha Round is re-launched without further delay.
- European countries and European institutions need more forceful and coordinated actions to prevent a further escalation of the credit crisis. Access to finance is still a major problem for small and medium-sized European enterprises.

During the press conference, Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE: *"The European Council should aim at bold solutions to achieve the EU's economic, environmental and social goals. The European economy will be heading towards a prolonged period of weak economic activity if their policy responses are not good enough"*

#### 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.*

For further information, please contact: Peter Vertessy +32(0)2 237.65.03  
[www.businessseurope.eu](http://www.businessseurope.eu)