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### **BUSINESSEUROPE CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON PACT FOR THE EURO**

Through today's demonstrations the trade unions expressed their concern about the future of European workers.

*"Social partners must show a sense of collective responsibility, including at the European level. Constructive dialogue is important to create a better future for European companies and workers"* said Director General Philippe de Buck.

BUSINESSEUROPE is convinced that the only sustainable way to improve growth and employment in Europe is to boost our competitiveness. We therefore fully support the Pact for the Euro agreed on 11 March and do not understand the hostility to this pact.

Like the trade unions, BUSINESSEUROPE is attached to the autonomy of the social dialogue. But this autonomy should be mobilised to carry out balanced reforms and achieve the necessary modernisation of Europe.

The emphasis on wage moderation in the Pact for the Euro is not an attack on collective bargaining. In Germany for example, the social partners themselves autonomously decided to follow this course. And rightly so. As a result, more than 1.6 million jobs have been created in that country since 2003; and the number of people out of work is the lowest since 1992.

These messages have also been given to the European Trade Union Confederation at the Tripartite Social Summit, which was held in Brussels today whilst the demonstrations were taking place.