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**The Confederation of European
Business**

Adrian van den Hoven, 22 June 2011

BUSINESSEUROPE: 40 members in 34 countries

							
Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Denmark
							
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland
							
Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Montenegro
							
Norway	Poland	Portugal	Portugal	Rep. San Marino	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia
							
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland	The Netherlands	Turkey	Turkey	United Kingdom



What is BUSINESSEUROPE?



- ✓ The Confederation of European business, representative of more than 20 million small, medium and large companies
- ✓ A Social Partner

Mission

- ✓ „Actively promote and represent business in Europe“
- ✓ „Advocate a favourable and competitive business environment to foster sustainable economic growth“

Purpose

- ✓ Influence EU policies to create a business-friendly environment

Pillars

- ✓ Members FIRST
- ✓ Staff: about 45 persons
- ✓ Supporting network of 42 companies (ASGroup)
- ✓ Alliance for a Competitive European Industry
- ✓ European Employers Network



BUSINESSEUROPE: Policy priorities

1. “Go For Growth”: Implement reforms for growth + jobs
2. Integrate the European market
3. Govern the EU efficiently
4. Shape globalisation and fight all kinds of protectionism
5. Promote a secure, competitive and climate-friendly energy system
6. Reform European social systems to respond to global challenges



BUSINESSEUROPE: Internal governance

- Statutory bodies with member federations
 - Council of Presidents / Executive Committee / Executive Bureau / DPs
- Policy Committees
 - Legal Affairs, Economic and Financial Affairs, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, Industrial Affairs, International Relations, Social Affairs, Internal Market
- Working groups of experts on different issues



Key issues in international relations

1. Doha Development Round
 - Industrial goods: formula; sectors; NTBs
 - Services: new market access

2. EU-US Transatlantic Relations
 - Transatlantic Economic Council
 - Cooperation on NTBs

3. Bilateral EU Dialogues & Business Summits
 - China, Japan, Russia, Africa



Key issues in international relations

4. Free Trade Agreements

- Korea, India, ASEAN, MERCOSUR, Canada
- GCC, Andean, Central America, EPAs

5. Further issues

- Raw materials
- Development policy
- Revised Community Customs Code
- Reform of export controls regime
- Trade Policy Instruments



Topics in EU-Africa relations for business

- Business climate for trade and investment
- Trade and regional integration
- Infrastructure
- Raw materials
- Role of business organisations



EU initiatives on EU-Africa relations

- Green paper EU development policy (mid-2011)
 - Launch debate on promoting growth and development
 - Topics: leveraging EU aid, agriculture and food security
- Communication Trade and Development (end 2011)
 - End 2011, setting out policy objectives for DG Trade
 - Topics: services, investment, green growth, raw materials



EU initiatives on EU-Africa relations

- EU-Africa raw materials partnership (ongoing)
 - African Mining Vision and EU Raw Materials Initiative
 - EU resource diplomacy (Tajani)
- Review of EU Generalised System of Preferences (ongoing)
 - Fewer beneficiaries (low and middle income countries)
 - Co-decision by Parliament and Council



Economic Partnership Agreements

State of play

- European Parliament approved Pacific interim EPA + Caribbean EPA has been applied since end 2008.
- Little progress on African EPAs, but some momentum in 2010 when EU-Africa summit re-confirmed commitment.

Prospects for progress?

- In SADC, EAC and Central Africa, partners propose to finalise during 2011.
- In other regions (Western Africa, ESA), no re-engagement.



Further information

www.businessseurope.eu

