



7 February 2012

MEETING BETWEEN MR ANDRIS PIEBALGS, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND PHILIPPE DE BUCK, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF BUSINESSEUROPE

7 FEBRUARY 2012, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BUSINESSEUROPE general position and action

- Recognize inter-linkages between Development and Trade policies and support efforts to create more synergies between these two policy fields, such as the recent European Commission Communication on Trade, growth and development.
- Strong support for the 'Agenda for change' released in October. More room should be created for the private sector in the development policy making process and new ways should be explored to better leverage private sector resources, in order to create win-win situations for developing countries and for business development.

BUSINESSEUROPE also participates in the European Development Days. The high-level panel organized this year in Warsaw with the European Investment Bank dealt with the issue of Public-Private Partnerships in the processes of development and democratization. We were the only private sector representatives at the event along with EIB and BASF (in our panel).

What BUSINESSEUROPE wants from the European Commission

- For BUSINESSEUROPE: establishing a more structured dialogue with DG DEVCO on policy issues and instruments (namely on tools to support improved governance, cooperation on raw materials, trade and investment), in order to see the implementation of what we already have on paper done in practice. The most practical way to do this would be to establish a regular exchange on Development Policy targets for countries and issues (as we do it with DG Trade).
- For our members: more information/dialogue on how EU development procurement and financing works (also in conjunction with the EIB for PPP projects). Of particular interest are blending instruments and catalyst funding, concepts however need to be better clarified. We also need clearer explanations of which sectors/countries the EU plans to target development aid – especially as regards infrastructure investments. The best way to do this would be to organize a regular exchange of information email or dialogue on how financing and procurement actually works.



- For companies: more information/dialogue on how companies can work with the Commission on development related projects (related to education, social or other similar objectives). Companies would like more political support from the Commission to help identify specific policy measures (i.e. regulations) that could support business development in specific developing country circumstances. For instance, if a company wants to invest in food fortification (vitamin enrichment), they need a regulatory policy environment in the developing country to allow for that development. Similarly, if a company wishes to invest in a certain industry (say cement or wind turbine parks), they need to work with the universities of the country to train qualified experts and engineers to manage the investment. Can the Commission work with companies on such matters?
