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### **“PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH” STATEMENT BY EUROPEAN INDUSTRY ON THE OCCASION OF THE RIO+20 CONFERENCE**

Meeting demand for natural resources in a sustainable way is one of the big global challenges of our time. Three billion more middle-class consumers in the world by 2030 will impact on consumption and production patterns and further accelerate demand for global resources, such as energy, materials, food and water. Ensuing negative environmental effects need to be reined in without hampering economic development.

Industry is key for all 3 pillars of sustainable development. Economic growth, which is essential to reduce global poverty and improve social cohesion, will further increase demand for industrial products and services. Industry, through innovative products and solutions, can enable consumers to meet their economic needs in a more sustainable way. As such, industry will be the key solution provider for resource efficiency, environmental stewardship and other societal challenges.

European industry is ready to foster its global leadership in sustainable development. A strong industrial base in Europe is a good strategy for global sustainability. European industry is among the most resource efficient and environmentally sustainable in the world, and many European companies are world leaders in providing “green” technologies. European companies also operate within some of the highest social standards globally.

*European industry therefore welcomes the call for a strong participation from the private sector at the Rio+20 conference. As a key player for a successful design and implementation of a global sustainability agenda, industry should be properly involved throughout the whole process.*

BUSINESSEUROPE, which represents 20 million companies from 35 European countries, would like the following **principles** to guide the sustainability and industrial policy agenda - locally, in the European Union and in the UN:

- Industry needs a technology-friendly society and policy environment to be able to develop sustainable products and solutions. Cutting-edge research and innovation in areas like bio- or nano-technologies must be supported and not prevented.



- Sustainability rules for industry must always be sought on international level to encourage global standards and avoid “leakage” of production to less regulated regions.
- To be ultimately effective, sustainability policies must focus on efficient resource-use by consumers. Future consumption patterns should be supported by sound information to households and businesses.
- A lifecycle-based policy approach is essential for a proper assessment of the sustainability impacts of resource use in value chains.
- The protection of intellectual property rights is a crucial condition for spurring innovation, and must not be weakened in international negotiations.
- Barriers to the free global movement of goods, services, knowledge and people should be broken down.
- Efforts should be undertaken to reduce volatility of global commodity prices.
- Education systems should strive to ensure sufficient skills in science, technologies, engineering and maths (STEM-skills).
- Strong public-private partnerships should be encouraged and innovative financing instruments developed in order to share investment risks between the public and private sector.

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