



14 June 2013

EMMA MARCEGAGLIA MEETS IRISH PRIME MINISTER AND CALLS TO KEEP AMBITIONS HIGH UNTIL END OF IRISH PRESIDENCY

Incoming BUSINESSEUROPE's President Emma Marcegaglia met the Irish Prime Minister, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, in Dublin today. The meeting took place on the occasion of the Council of Presidents of BUSINESSEUROPE, which gathers all the Presidents of 41 leading business organisations from 35 European countries.

Emma Marcegaglia, incoming President of BUSINESSEUROPE said: *"I am honoured to meet the Irish Prime Minister when taking over the helm of BUSINESSEUROPE. I will focus on how to grow out of the crisis and bring my personal experience on what must be done to remove obstacles to investment while putting public finances in order. I am absolutely convinced that we can make it, provided we genuinely focus EU and national reforms on the removal of obstacles to investment."*

Expressing European businesses' appreciation for the Irish Presidency's work to refocus European policies on growth and competitiveness, BUSINESSEUROPE underlined that the last 2 weeks of the Irish Presidency were crucial to

- endorse powerful country specific recommendations on national growth enhancing reforms and fiscal consolidation,
- make progress on the road towards a banking union,
- reach agreement on the EU budget for 2014-2020, which implements the Youth Employment Initiative, supports Research and Innovation or European infrastructure projects, and programmes for SMEs
- launch negotiations on a transatlantic trade agreement and ensure that specific issues are not excluded by either side before negotiations have started.

Jürgen R. Thumann, outgoing President of BUSINESSEUROPE and the Council of Presidents of BUSINESSEUROPE warmly welcomed Ms Emma Marcegaglia who will succeed him on 1 July 2013.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE's members are 41 leading industrial and employers' federations from 35 European countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe. For the full list of our members, please visit our website.

For further information, please contact:

Peter Vertessy

+32(0)2 237.65.03

www.businessseurope.eu