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“ALL INVESTMENT BARRIERS IN EUROPE MUST BE REMOVED RAPIDLY”

-- BUSINESSEUROPE Council of Presidents adopt business principles for an EU investment plan --

(21 November 2014, Brussels) Speaking at the meeting of the Presidents of its member federations today in Rome BUSINESSEUROPE President Emma Marcegaglia said: “Europe will only be able to increase investment if we improve the attractiveness of the EU as a business location. Europe has many strengths, millions of skilled workers and innovative companies. But global competition for business investment is increasing. The European Commission has a renewed commitment to supporting business in creating prosperity and employment. But Europe can only succeed when all investment barriers are removed rapidly.”

The Council of Presidents is the main decision-making body of BUSINESSEUROPE. It meets twice a year in the capital of the Member State holding the rotating Presidency of the EU Council. Their Rome meeting today was chaired by the President of BUSINESSEUROPE, Emma Marcegaglia, and attended by the Presidents of its member federations. The Italian Prime Minister Mr Matteo Renzi joined the meeting for an exchange of views on the achievements of the Italian EU Presidency.

Among other issues, presidents discussed the economic situation, the work of the new European Commission and its priorities, BUSINESSEUROPE’s trade roadmap for the new European Commission, negotiations on an ambitious Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership as well as on CETA and Europe’s business relations with Russia.

The Council of Presidents adopted BUSINESSEUROPE’s expectations concerning an EU investment plan. The paper lists the principles European companies believe the EU should adopt to successfully implement a €300 billion investment plan, the European Commission has announced. BUSINESSEUROPE identified the challenges as well as the barriers businesses across Europe currently face – barriers the EU must urgently remove to increase long-term investment and to create more work places for the 25 million unemployed Europeans.

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