



1 December 2017

A STRONG WTO: AGAINST PROTECTIONISM, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

The 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation will take place on 10-13 December in Buenos Aires, Argentina. BusinessEurope and its Members call on WTO members to reach an ambitious outcome that would reinforce the WTO as an organisation and pave the way for further liberalisation of trade in an inclusive manner.

1. As the guardian of multilateral trading rules, the importance of the WTO is unquestionable. European businesses have always supported a strong and effective WTO, able to negotiate new rules that are adapted to today's vibrant trading reality, characterised by the emergence of Global Value Chains, digitalisation and the role of services in the economy.
2. We value the progress achieved in the previous Ministerial Conferences in Bali (2013) and Nairobi (2015) and call on all the members of the WTO to pursue a highly ambitious and comprehensive agenda on the road to Buenos Aires and beyond. The business community stands ready to support WTO members bridging their existing differences.
3. We regret to see that important trading partners and members of the WTO seem less engaged in the efforts to reinvigorate the multilateral trading system. We are particularly concerned by certain actions that could endanger the institutional capacity of the organisation and its ability to ensure the effective enforcement of the rules.
4. For European businesses it is clear that protectionism offers no solutions to the challenges our societies and economies encounter today. We need to revitalise the negotiating pillar of the WTO, for the benefit of all WTO members, and safeguard the most reputable and efficient Dispute Settlement system in the world.

BUSINESSEUROPE



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Denmark	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany
Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Iceland	Ireland
Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Montenegro
Norway	Poland	Portugal	Rep. of San Marino	Serbia	Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland	The Netherlands
Turkey	Turkey	United Kingdom			