

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Günter Verheugen  
Vice-President  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

30 November 2008

Dear Vice-President,


BUSINESSEUROPE appreciates the Communication on raw materials in which you outline an integrated strategy for securing reliable and undistorted access to raw materials. The initiative's three pillars, addressing access to raw materials from international markets, setting framework conditions in the EU and promoting resource efficiency and recycling, constitute a valuable first step to addressing this important issue.

Although the financial crisis and the global economic slowdown have recently led to a decline in prices of raw materials, the need for stable and undistorted access to raw materials has not become less urgent. On the contrary, we are concerned that the current economic circumstances could produce a new wave of protectionism and distortions to the raw materials market.

Consequently, the timely implementation of the initiative will be of key importance for ensuring reliable and undistorted access to raw materials. We therefore urge the European Commission to pursue the actions outlined in the initiative's three pillars. We count on you to ensure that implementation of this initiative is a priority for all actors involved, including other Commissioners, Member States and the European Parliament.

European industry is convinced of the value of the proposed approach and is committed to working together with the European Commission to ensure its implementation. We look forward to being actively involved in the implementation of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

*best regards*  


Philippe de Buck