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### **STRONGER ENFORCEMENT OF TRADE RULES IS ESSENTIAL FOR FREE TRADE**

Today, the European Commission released its report on Trade and Investment Barriers to European commerce. BUSINESSEUROPE applauds the efforts of the Commission to take action to keep global market open.

Since the advent of the economic crisis, protectionist pressures have increased around the world exposing EU companies, which export over 1€ trillion per year, to huge risks. BUSINESSEUROPE prefers active diplomatic efforts to remove trade barriers but expects the Commission to take legal action in the WTO whenever that fails to deliver.

Looking forward, BUSINESSEUROPE calls on the Commission to:

- cooperate with business to identify and remove barriers to commerce.
- strengthen EU Market Access Teams in the leading emerging markets.
- use bilateral political summits to address the most sensitive commercial issues.
- turn to WTO dispute settlement procedures when diplomatic negotiations fail.
- improve market access and protection of investments in future EU trade and investment agreements.

Adrian van den Hoven, International Relations Director of BUSINESSEUROPE said:  
*“The EU economy depends heavily on free trade to generate growth and jobs. The Trade and Investment Barriers Report is an important milestone in the EU strategy to fight against protectionism and to keep global markets open for commerce.”*

#### 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.*

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