

**BRAZILIAN
BUSINESS AFFAIRS**



**MERCOSUR
EUROPEAN UNION
BUSINESS FORUM**



**FORO EMPRESARIAL
MERCOSUR
UNIÓN EUROPEA**



EUROCHAMBRES **BUSINESSEUROPE**

Brussels, 15 March 2012

EU-MERCOSUR FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: TIME FOR EXCHANGE OF OFFERS

During the current round of negotiations of the EU-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement (FTA) business representatives on both sides of the Atlantic welcomed the work done on rules but urged negotiators to exchange market access offers by mid 2012.

BUSINESSEUROPE, CNI, Brazilian Business Affairs and EUROCHAMBRES believe that an EU-MERCOSUR FTA will stimulate much needed growth on both sides. If ambitious and balanced, the agreement would create tens of thousands of Jobs and billions of Euro of additional trade and investment over the next years in both regions.

It is time to translate the high level political support into a concrete push to an exchange of market access offers in mid 2012. Business is ready to work with governments to present ambitious and balanced offers.

BUSINESSEUROPE is the main horizontal business organization at EU level with 41 member federations from 35 countries.

Eurochambres – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local chambers.

Brazilian Business Affairs is CNI's (National Confederation of Industry - Brazil) and Apex-Brazil's (Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency) representation office with the European Union. CNI represents 27 Industry Federations in the states and Federal District, over a thousand associated sectoral employers' organizations and 196,000 industrial establishments.

MERCOSUR-EU Business Forum (MEBF) aims at fostering trade and business relations between the EU and the Mercosur countries by establishing a permanent dialogue between the business communities and the political leaders of the two regions.