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MODERNISED TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS MUST ALSO STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING RULES

Markus J. Beyrer, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE said: *"The modernisation of trade defence instruments must serve European industrial interests through improved rules to tackle unfair trade and subsidies as well as circumvention. European Union trade defence instruments already provide for higher standards than those required by WTO Law. BUSINESSEUROPE will oppose any attempt to weaken the instruments' effectiveness"*.

Today the EU Commission published proposals on the modernization of trade defence instruments. Trade defence instruments are the only remedy that companies have in order to restore fair global competition. Therefore, BUSINESSEUROPE calls for the lesser duty rule to be suspended in cases of fraud, subsidisation and circumvention. Additionally, effective measures are needed to address distortions in raw material prices that provide competitors with an unfair advantage, and strong protection against retaliation for EU producers using legitimate trade defence policies.

We support guidelines to codify and bring transparency to the current Commission practice. However the adoption of the guidelines should be postponed until the legislative proposal enters into force to ensure consistency between the law and practice of investigations.

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.

For further information, please contact: Peter Vertessy +32(0)2 237.65.03
www.businessseurope.eu