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NEW EU PRESIDENT AND HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Following the decision taken by the European Council yesterday, BUSINESSEUROPE congratulates Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton on their appointment as new permanent President of the European Council and the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

When the Lisbon Treaty enters into force on 1 December they will play a pivotal role in leading the new EU institutions and making Europe's voice heard in the world.

BUSINESSEUROPE expects from Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton as well as from the European institutions an unwavering commitment to open market principles and to pushing forward the reforms needed to create more growth and jobs in Europe.

BUSINESSEUROPE President Jürgen R. Thumann said: *"With the appointments just announced, with the Lisbon Treaty finally entering into force and the nominations for the new Commission shortly, the European Union now has to focus on the economic recovery. And there is no economic recovery without successful companies. This is why Europe has to put companies at the heart of its policy agenda."*

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

For further information, please contact: Maria-Fernanda Fau +32(0)2 237.65.62
www.businesseurope.eu