Commissioner Joaquin Almunia
Vice President of the European Commission in
charge of Competition
DG Competition
European Commission
BERL 11/238
200, Rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles

23 July 2010

Dear Vice-President,

As the Commission prepares a communication on industrial policy, I am honoured to send you the attached BUSINESSEUROPE position paper which underlines the importance of developing an ambitious integrated industrial policy for Europe, articulated around the following main lines:

- active development of the fundamental horizontal EU policies (internal market, better regulation, free and fair trade, etc.) that can upgrade the framework conditions in which industry operates;
- integration of the industrial competitiveness dimension in all EU policies. This also encompasses how the EU spends its budget and how it promotes innovation and entrepreneurship;
- sectoral or cross-sectoral initiatives implementing horizontal policies according to sectors’ needs and designing tailor-made measures to integrate the competitiveness, energy and environment policy dimensions;
- launch of EU flagship projects that demonstrate Europe’s role as an innovation leader;
- promotion of intelligent infrastructure in the area of transport, energy and information/communication technologies;
- internationalisation of European companies.

In your capacity as Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Competition, you can play an essential role in stimulating progress at EU level on a number of these action lines, and in ensuring that they feature in the new industrial policy agenda that the Commission will publish in the autumn. BUSINESSEUROPE strongly counts on you to play your full role in this respect.

We thank you for the consideration you may give to these issues, and remain at your disposal to examine them in greater detail if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck