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RELEX 879	COMPET 541
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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Business Europe Priorities for the Global Gateway

Delegations will find in the annex a presentation given by an external stakeholder, on behalf of Business Europe, at the meeting of RELEX Counsellors – Horizontal Questions on June 17 2022. This presentation and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



BusinessEurope Priorities for the Global Gateway

17 June 2022

Context

- European companies are globally recognised for their sustainable, resource-efficient, long-term solutions
- In the EU, we have so far not fully managed to leverage this potential in a sufficiently coordinated fashion
- Meanwhile, some third country initiatives have also led to market distortions, non-sustainable financing conditions and non-compliance with international standards
- Need for an alternative approach that fosters sustainable development and a level playing field for our companies



BusinessEurope priorities

- **Prioritisation**: The EU connectivity strategy needs to prioritise and focus on what is most essential, instead of trying to do everything at the same time.
- **Business involvement**: The business advisory group announced in the 2018 EU connectivity strategy and the Global Gateway should be launched soon.
- **Sustainability of investments**: The Global Gateway should be governed by procurement rules that ensure high quality by looking at the life-cycle costs of projects. Measures must also be in place to address abnormally low bids.
- **Reciprocity**: EU-funded connectivity projects should not be open to companies and entities from countries that do not grant reciprocal access to their connectivity-related projects to EU operators.



BusinessEurope priorities

- **Communication**: The EU should better showcase and communicate the benefits of EU-funded projects as there remains a lack of awareness in beneficiary countries.
- **Coherence**: The EU and Member States should coordinate their relevant policies more closely to ensure a true Team Europe approach to connectivity.
- **International Coordination**: The Global Gateway should be coordinated with like-minded partners to promote connectivity based on market rules, transparency, open procurement, fair competition, sustainability, and the promotion of international standards.

