

Brussels, 16th February 2010

Dear Madame, Dear Sir,

Please, let us invite you to a debate titled “**Eastern partnership – new challenge for EU businesses**”, which will be held in Czech House in Brussels (60, Rue du Trône) on **March 4th 2010 from 11:00 to 12:30 am**. The event is organized by CEBRE – Czech Business Representation to the EU in cooperation with the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU under the auspices of Czech Permanent Representative Milena VICENOVÁ.

The Eastern Partnership project aiming to improve the political and economic trade-relations of the countries of "strategic importance" - Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia with the European Union was inaugurated in Prague on 7th May 2009. Promotion of human rights, good governance and rule of law in former Soviet republics are key aspects of the Eastern Partnership that includes also the economic cooperation and support to Eastern companies and their representatives. Civil society gathered in Civil Society Forum (CSF) adopted a proposal to set up an informal **Eastern Partnership Business Forum** enhancing business cooperation and exchange between Eastern and EU business and their respective organisations. The first meeting of the CSF took place November 2009 and its first Steering Committee was elected. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in Brussels on 22-23 January 2010, the next meeting will be held in Kyiv in late March.

How can be the EU business organisations helpful in capacity-building of their Eastern partners? Is a strengthen dialog within the Eastern Partnership an opportunity to take for EU businesses?

These and other questions will be addressed by the distinguished speakers:

- **Štefan FÜLE**, Commissioner responsible for Enlargement and European neighbourhood policy
- **Michal KAPLAN**, Head of External Relations Unit Czech Permanent Representation to the EU
- **Ivan VOLEŠ**, Member of EESC and Head of Eastern Neighbourhood Contact Group
- **Anna ZVOLIKEYCH**, Director of EU Ukrainian Business Council
- **Kristian VIGENIN**, Member of EP, Chairman of Euronest Parliamentary Assembly Delegation

We kindly ask you to confirm your attendance at brussels@cebre.cz by March 1st, 2010.

Yours faithfully,

CEBRE – Czech Business
Representation to the EU
www.cebre.cz

Permanent Representation of the
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www.czechrep.be