

Chambers look for a 'less is more' Greek Presidency

EUROCHAMBRES argues that a condensed and low budget Greek Presidency semester can deliver concrete and positive results for the EU by focusing on a few key success factors that are within reach over the coming months. This was the main message to come out of a breakfast discussion between the European Chamber network and Greek Presidency representatives this morning.

According to Arnaldo Abruzzini, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General: *"Presidency semester objectives are frequently more like multiannual wish lists and delivery suffers as a consequence. Greece cannot afford to make such a mistake, so we want to see a term driven by the notion of 'less is more'."*

EUROCHAMBRES set out just three realistic yet important objectives for the Greek term:

1. Recapture the falling momentum of EU industrial policy by setting, discussing and agreeing ambitious conclusions on support to Europe's manufacturing base at the March European Council;
2. Assess progress on the 'Investment Plan for Europe' agreed at the June 2013 European Council in order to revive lending to the real economy and push member states to pursue consistent and effective strategies to strengthen the role and leverage effect of the European Investment Bank;
3. Play a proactive and constructive role in pushing for a prompt conclusion of a comprehensive and truly SME friendly EU-US Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership, which has the scope to significantly enhance Europe's global competitiveness.

Contextualising the Chambers' call for a pragmatic approach to the Greek Presidency, the Secretary General stressed: *"Over the coming months, EUROCHAMBRES will press for significant reforms to the governance and structure of the EU policy making process that Chambers believe are necessary for the new legislative term."*

Mr Abruzzini added: *"For now, we call on the Greek Presidency to pursue tangible progress on a small number of key ongoing initiatives that will deliver a positive boost to the EU's economic recovery before the end of this legislature"*.

Further information: Mr Ben Butters, Tel. +32 2 282 08 71, butters@eurochambres.eu
Press contact: Ms Susete Sampaio, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, sampaio@eurochambres.eu
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