

6th European Summit of Regions and Cities: Recovering from crisis with economic convergence

Investing in business is the best way to reverse the crisis and generate sustainable jobs.

Speaking at the sixth European Summit of Regions and Cities, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General, Arnaldo Abruzzini, explained how business can positively shape the future of Europe, tackling at the same time the economic crisis and the youth unemployment.

"Given the striking gap in purchasing power between regions, convergence within the EU can only be solved by getting the weaker regions back in the race and feeding competitiveness across the Union. This should be done through investing in economic performance", said Mr Abruzzini.

After six years of economic and financial crisis, serious measures should be taken to foster growth and jobs at regional level. Therefore, EUROCHAMBRES recommends a two-dimensional solution:

- **Small and Medium Enterprises:** to be established as the main source for the job market, through targeted measures that foster investment in businesses boosting growth and competitiveness and making job creation possible;
- **Vocational Education and Training:** implementing and modernising education schemes across Europe based on a strong partnership between education providers and businesses, to provide young people with the skills needed in the workplace, thereby reducing demand and supply mismatch.

"We must rethink the European strategy for growth and jobs creation, not forgetting the vital role local communities can have as potential levers to achieve its ambitious targets", stressed the Secretary General.

Further information: Mr Arnaldo Abruzzini, Tel. +32 2 282 08 51, abruzzo@eurochambres.eu
Press contact: Ms Susete Sampaio, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, sampaio@eurochambres.eu
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