

State aid guidelines: First step towards harmonisation

EUROCHAMBRES has welcomed the European Commission's guidelines on state aid for environmental protection and energy as a first step towards harmonising support schemes, in particular on renewable energy.

"In order to secure our energy supply and to guarantee competitive prices it is evident that we need to build stronger synergies in Europe. Consequently, an efficient internal energy market requires harmonised support schemes for renewables so that investments will be made where they have the most positive impact", stated Richard Weber, President of EUROCHAMBRES, in a first reaction.

Regarding the new rules on exemptions from environmental taxes and on reductions of surcharges for the financing of renewable energy sources, EUROCHAMBRES warned of imposing further costs on energy-intensive businesses.

"Energy-intensive industries form a crucial part of the EU's industrial base and high gas and electricity prices are already placing them at a competitive disadvantage on the global market. Therefore, we have to prevent adding any further financial burdens on their shoulders", concluded Mr Weber.

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