

I Press Release

Brussels, 2 July 2014

Green Action Plan for SMEs: no game changer

EUROCHAMBRES expressed its disappointment at the "Green Action Plan for Small and Medium Enterprises" presented by the European Commission today.

"Despite good starting points such as improving financing opportunities, overall the action plan lacks direction and new ideas," criticised Ben Butters, Director of EU Affairs at EUROCHAMBRES. "We need more concrete and practice-oriented support actions for SMEs when consulted, so we are disappointed that the Commission's proposals to this effect are largely trivial. Does it really require a new action plan to announce everyday measures like updating Commission websites or using the Enterprise Europe Network to inform SMEs?"

Chambers report that a lack of time and expertise is the main obstacle to green actions among SMEs. Instead of being flooded with information, they want concrete, tailored guidance on day-to-day operations, which should be largely cost-neutral and practice-oriented.

Further information: Mr Michael Steurer, Tel. +32 2 282 08 77, <u>steurer@eurochambres.eu</u> Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, <u>cominotti@eurochambres.eu</u> All EUROCHAMBRES' press releases can be downloaded from <u>www.eurochambres.eu/Content/default.asp?pagename=PressReleases</u>

Connecting business to Europe

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million businesses in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.