

## **EUROCHAMBRES outlines business priorities to Timmermans, Katainen, Šefčovič and Jourová**

EUROCHAMBRES is holding a round of bilateral Commissioner meetings today and tomorrow to outline the business community's expectations for the next five years.

### **Frans Timmermans (Better Regulation)**

Earlier this month, First Vice-President Timmermans stated that he wants '*SMEs to feel the difference in what we do*'. Supporting this aim, President Richard Weber will underline the importance of evidence-based policy making and evaluating better the impact of both draft and existing EU laws on SMEs. He will highlight the need to convert 'think small first' from a nice slogan into an institutional ethos across the Commission services, as well as the Parliament and Council. He will also announce a new Chamber network action to identify the most burdensome new and existing pieces of EU legislation for business.

### **Jyrki Katainen (Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness)**

Mr Weber will ask Vice-President Katainen for clarification of measures within the Investment Plan for Europe targeted at SMEs, which EUROCHAMBRES fears represent no change from the largely ineffective existing approaches. Given the current ambiguity about the new Commission's approach to SME policy, he will also seek reassurances that the Small Business Act will be strengthened through more robust governance and that the SME perspective will be central to College decisions. Mr Weber will also insist on the need to reinforce the SME perspective in TTIP and on the importance of advancing with the investment agreement negotiations with China.

### **Maroš Šefčovič (Energy Union)**

The internal market for energy, energy prices and energy efficiency will be top of the agenda, just a day before heads of state discuss the Commission's Energy Union communication. Mr Weber will highlight disparities in energy prices, not just in relation to global competitors, but also within the EU, due largely to differing national taxes and levies. He will also outline the key role that Chambers can and must play in enhancing SMEs' energy efficiency.

### **Věra Jourová (Justice, Consumers)**

EUROCHAMBRES will urge Commissioner Jourová to take measures to mitigate the negative impact of two dossiers, the implementation of the Consumer Rights Directive and the revision of the Package Travel Directive. Looking forward, Mr Weber will highlight the importance of mediation in resolving disputes in a cost and time effective manner. He will also support Commission actions to support services relating to insolvency proceedings and to increase the prospects that entrepreneurs who experience business failure get a second chance.

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