

Chambers call on G20 to get serious in rolling back protectionism

On the eve of the Hamburg G20 Summit EUROCHAMBRES has urged leaders of the world's major economies to start practicing what they preach on protectionism by removing existing trade obstacles, rather than erecting new ones.

Numerous pledges have been made by G20 leaders in rejection of protectionism, most recently at their 2016 Summit in Hangzhou. However, the ten countries with the highest number of trade barriers still in place are all G20 members. The European Commission's recent Trade & Investment Report also revealed an increase of 10% in barriers experienced by European exporters in 2016 alone.

Christoph Leitl, Chairman of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP) and Honorary President of EUROCHAMBRES, underlined the importance of this matter ahead of the G20 Summit: *"Lets make no mistake, we are at a crossroads in international trade and leaders at the G20 must choose between embarking on a path of enhanced global cooperation based on free and fair trade, or allowing protectionist measures to creep further into our economic relations."*

This strong message reflects that of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP) at the B20 Summit in Berlin in May, which cautioned against unjustified trade barriers, protectionism and populism and stressed the need to take further steps to make trade policy fairer and more inclusive.

"G20 leaders must not only halt the current slide towards protectionism, they must also think ahead and work with their business community to table innovative new ideas on how trade can better benefit all. SMEs are a key element in that equation and better tailoring our trade agreements to their needs both at the bilateral and multilateral level is a mayor step towards more balanced and sustainable growth", added Leitl.

Link to the Global Chamber Statement on occasion of B20 2017 Summit: <http://bit.ly/2pB1PYb>

Note: The Global Chamber Platform, which was founded in 2002, brings together 16 major national and trans-national Chamber organisations from the four corners of the globe. Its key objectives are to facilitate international trade and market access, and to develop coherent and innovative responses to the challenges of globalisation.

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