

## The Goods Package: an encouraging initiative

EUROCHAMBRES supports several measures announced in today's European Commission new Goods package which have been designed to hone the application of the mutual recognition principle and to prevent the sale of unsafe or non-compliant products from third countries.

SMEs often encounter incorrect applications of the mutual recognition principle, a key factor in the free movement of goods. Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, commented: *"Misapplication of the mutual recognition principle can be highly detrimental to businesses who want to market their products across borders. Therefore, we are pleased to see that the Commission is proposing measures that should streamline communication between national authorities. If this leads to greater transparency and predictability, as well as clearer rules, it will be beneficial to businesses and consumers alike to market their products faster."*

The Internal Market Problem Solving Network (SOLVIT) plays an important role when a business is unfairly denied market access. Member States should retain their prerogative in the area of market surveillance, but Chambers support the fact that the Commission will be able to issue an opinion via SOLVIT about the legitimacy of an administrative decision to bar access to its market. While larger companies have less issues with resorting to national courts, SMEs generally can't afford to file complaints and therefore often refrain from exporting to another market.

The emergence of the online platforms has increased the pressure on national market surveillance authorities, particularly in relation to products from outside the EU. Arnaldo Abruzzini added: *"Law abiding SMEs increasingly suffer from unfair competition from non-compliant products that are allowed to enter the single market. Steps that will stem this problem are therefore welcome, so we will examine the Commission's proposals carefully."*

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