

EUROCHAMBRES turns 60 with new challenges and traditional values

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, celebrates its 60th anniversary on 28th February of this year. The festivities for this celebration will take place on 26th April in Brussels –where its Permanent General-Secretariat is based since 1977.

EUROCHAMBRES was the first business organisation to be set up at European level following the signing of the Treaty of Rome. Its uniqueness lays in the fact that it is the only European business organisation whose members actively work together for the development and growth of companies, as well as for the economic development of their regions.

The Association was founded exactly 60 years ago, on **28 February 1958**, when the Directors of the National Chambers of Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and West Germany held their first Assembly in Strasbourg and announced the creation of the “Conférence Permanente des Chambres de Commerce et d’Industrie de la CEE” with the scope of promoting the views of Chamber organisations at European level and agreeing on proposing modifications of the commercial legislation deemed necessary.

“As in nature everything evolves, the initial creature has evolved, through the years, rewarding those characters that were winning over the others, shaping it to what we know today as EUROCHAMBRES”, said Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES.

The network has expanded progressively through the years, up to 44 national associations plus 2 transnational organisations of Chambers from an enlarged Europe. These represent a European network of around 1700 regional and local chambers, composed mostly by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Chambers’ member businesses employ over 120 million people all across Europe.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, EUROCHAMBRES will prepare a declaration to support the European Pillar of Entrepreneurship Rights, to promote a more business-friendly climate at EU and national levels. The Association’s contribution was announced by the President of EUROCHAMBRES and of WKÖ, Christopher Leitl, to the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, in their recent meeting of 22 of January, and will be delivered soon.

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