

**SERVICES E-CARD: IMCO COMMITTEE FALLS PREY TO LACK OF AMBITION AND FALSE CLAIMS IN E-CARD DEBACLE**

EUROCHAMBRES expresses its disappointment that the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament today voted against the creation of a Services e-Card, a tool designed to facilitate the cross-border provision of services in the European Union. As policy-makers celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the single market, this backward-looking vote calls into serious question the European Parliament's commitment to the free movement of services and to helping SMEs.

The services e-card would have introduced an electronic certificate proving that its holder is a legally established provider in his home member state and in that capacity, entitled in that territory to provide the service activities in question. The card would not have any consequences on the prerogatives of the member states to perform social inspections, nor would it have affected the posted workers directive. In this sense, it can't be argued that the proposal was infringing on national legislation.

Arnaldo Abbruzini, the CEO of EUROCHAMBRES, declared: *"Despite the efforts of the co-rapporteurs, a majority of our political representatives in the European Parliament have shown that they worry more about vested interests and unfounded claims than the interests of small service providers seeking to capitalise on the single market. Ten years after the introduction of the Service Directive, the single market for services remains a mess."*

Arnaldo Abbruzini added: *"Despite the outcome of the vote, we would like to underline that the rapporteurs have done their utmost to find common ground. With today's vote, no-one benefits, least of all small service providers. Policy-makers are very keen to pat themselves on the back in the corridors of Brussels as they celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the single market this year, but it looks like they are forgetting to invite small businesses to the party."*

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