

## Gas Directive: EUROCHAMBRES' doubts go largely unheeded in ITRE vote

EUROCHAMBRES unequivocally supports the European Commission in its efforts for a more integrated and competitive gas market. In our view, this is indispensable for ensuring a cost-efficient, stable and secure energy supply for European companies.

Unfortunately, in yesterday's vote on the revision of the Gas Directive, the Parliament's ITRE Committee did not sufficiently address the doubts expressed in [EUROCHAMBRES' position of 20 February 2018](#). Especially with regard to potential gas price increases and planning uncertainty, the amendments of the Committee prove unsatisfactory from the view of small and medium sized enterprises. In addition, the potential undermining of national sovereignty has not been assessed to a sufficient extent. EUROCHAMBRES is convinced that the proposal unduly restricts Member states and businesses in their capacities to negotiate bilateral agreements.

Concerning the alleged aim for a better and more inclusive legislative procedure, **Arnaldo Abruzzini**, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES declared: *"We deeply regret that, in spite of a number of voices raised in the Committee, the business community's call for an adequate consultation and comprehensive impact assessment remained unheard, and added: However, we will continue working together constructively with the European Institutions in order to achieve competitive energy access for all European companies."*

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