

EU Summit / migration: no business, no integration

EUROCHAMBRES has expressed concern that the preparations for this week's EU Summit discussion on migration have overlooked the crucial role of businesses.

In a letter to Member States and the European Commission, EUROCHAMBRES underlines the need to do more to ensure that refugees secure viable work opportunities and thus the need to involve businesses as the providers of such opportunities.

"Quotas, rules and procedures will not help integration if there is not an appropriate work or training position for migrants at the end of their journey. In other words, without business, there will be no integration", explained EUROCHAMBRES President, Christoph Leitl.

EUROCHAMBRES argues that this requires solidarity, not just towards the refugees and migrants themselves, but also towards those offering work or training positions. That is why EUROCHAMBRES is calling for an Integration Grant to support in particular SMEs to integrate migrants in their workforce, a complex and resource-intensive process. *"We are convinced that the benefits of such a scheme, not just in terms of integration but also in addressing growing skills shortages, would significantly outweigh the costs"*, added President Leitl.

Additional material:

- Letter of EUROCHAMBRES to the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker: <http://bit.ly/2KibzT2>

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