

EUROCHAMBRES President calls for more openness in Europe during 2019

At the end of 2018, EUROCHAMBRES President Christoph Leitl shared his thoughts about the most important topics during this year and the perspectives for 2019.

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, underlined the progress achieved during 2018 in free trade, circular economy, and the negotiations to try to reach a Withdrawal Agreement with the United Kingdom.

About the perspectives for next year, **President Leitl** stated: ***“2019 will be a decisive moment for Europe, in which we should think and act for a positive, constructive change in the European Union. Europe needs to be more integrated and work together for maintaining its leading role as the strongest economy around the world.”***

*For achieving this, we should continue expanding our network of **free trade agreements**, as well as do better in bringing the benefits of trade closer to all European SMEs. In addition, **innovation in circular economy** should be a must considering all the opportunities that this approach will bring to the economic system, our companies and entrepreneurs, and to achieve a sustainable world. Finally, we should understand the forces of change in the future of work, preparing for the future skills needs in order to bring our talents into prosperity”.*

According to President Leitl, the upcoming European elections of May 2019 will be crucial to shape the future of Europe and, because of this, to define the future of a functioning Single Market in favour of SMEs and entrepreneurs. *“Europe needs to stick together and confront the uncertainties of 2019 by thinking who will give courage and hope –instead fears and desperation– to bring a positive live perspective to our youngsters and the next generations. Is time that everyone stops thinking only about themselves and that we have a wider perspective of Europe as a whole”,* he stated.

About the economic perspectives for 2019, President Leitl commented: *“As is reflected in the last EUROCHAMBRES Economic Survey, the economic expectations of European businesses for 2019 are still positive, but less positive than in previous years. We should all work together from the first day to restore confidence and bring a better picture for our entrepreneurs”.*

Additional information:

- The EUROCHAMBRES Economic Survey 2019, with expectations of +45000 respondents across Europe, is available at: <http://bit.ly/2DG509n>
- President Leitl is available for interviews. Please contact our press service if interested.

Press contact: Mr Luis Piselli, WhatsApp: +32 2 282 08 92, piselli@eurochambres.eu
(Mobile phone number during Christmas holidays: +51 923 397 735)
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