

PRESS RELEASE

Energy: EUROCHAMBRES welcomes EC's comprehensive approach and highlights business concerns

Concerning today's presentation of the EU energy package by the European Commission, EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, welcomes the Commission's approach of tackling the many challenges associated with energy policy in an integrated way: seeking security of supply, proper functioning of the internal market, enhancing competitiveness and tackling climate change.

"Businesses understand that climate change is one of the major global challenges, and that – as the Stern report showed – choices, taken now or deferred to some future date, will profoundly affect our economies", Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, commented. "We see potential first mover advantages for European companies in the future, by offering climate-friendly products and services and by increasing their own energy efficiencies. It is therefore important that a new energy policy enables Europe to efficiently use its innovative technologies and potential for alternative energies to reduce import dependence."

However, Mr Abruzzini reiterated the need to improve the current competitiveness of European business, crucial for a sustainable development, and outlined the following caveat:

- The new energy policy for Europe should not cause further hikes in energy prices.
- The envisaged leadership role for Europe in tackling climate change should not tip the international playing field against us. European leaders – Commission, Parliament and Council – must make sure that other countries, both industrialised and developing, buy into the climate change proposals now being made. We want to see EU really lead others, not just dash ahead on its own.

Energy is one of the key priorities highlighted in the Chambers' Manifesto. EUROCHAMBRES' working group on energy will therefore examine the energy package in detail and provide further comments in due time.

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