

PRESS RELEASE

Port Services: Chambers urge competition, but only where needed

Ahead of tomorrow's first reading of the Market Access to Port Services proposal, EUROCHAMBRES asks MEPs to vote in favour of increased competition in order to ensure a high level of service quality at competitive rates in European seaports.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"Chambers support the objective pursued by the Directive: further improvement of service quality in seaports. A high level of service quality can only be ensured in the long term on the basis of competition. While most believe that the Commission proposal is unworkable, it is a very difficult task for the European Parliament to make up for this without having a recommendation from the relevant Committee."*

There is already a high level of competition in many European ports in the area of cargo-related services. Therefore EUROCHAMBRES claims that the Directive should exclusively target those ports where only one service provider operates and no alternative trans-shipment possibilities exist.

Mr Abruzzini stressed: *"If this point is not expressly taken into account as an exceptional situation, we would even ask the EP to reject the whole proposal"*.

Finally, Chambers demand an estimation of the costs caused by the Directive in and between European ports. An impact assessment is urgently needed to measure the costs and effects of the Directive.

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