

EU leaders must commit to business-driven approach to innovation

Ahead of the European Council's discussions on innovation this week, EUROCHAMBRES urges EU leaders to commit to a more business-driven approach to innovation policy.

"The conventional, heavily research-driven approach to innovation policy in Europe is outdated," said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. "Innovation is about bringing ideas to markets and entrepreneurs and businesses are of course pivotal to this process. We look to the heads of state this week to confirm that the emerging new approach to innovation policy reflects this commercially-driven dynamic."

For example, the new European Innovation Partnerships – proposed in the Commission's Innovation Union paper to address major societal challenges – must be judged also on the number of ideas they bring to the market and thus create growth and jobs.

The 2010 Innovation Union Scoreboard confirms that Europe's top innovation performers (Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden) excel in the commercialisation of their technological knowledge and demonstrate good linkages between the science base and business.

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