

PRESS RELEASE

Failure of Port Services Directive: Opportunity to rethink and improve whole seaport policy, Chambers say

Commenting on yesterday's rejection by the European Parliament of the proposal on market access to port services, Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"We do not celebrate this result. Chambers have always supported the objective of the initiative: to liberalise European seaport services. However, after the vote in the TRAN Committee, any other response would have incorporated the risk of creating a very incoherent and inconsistent directive."*

Mr Abruzzini added: *"The Commission could take this vote as an opportunity to reflect on a whole new seaport policy including the issue of port services, but also taking up other important issues such as investment in infrastructure."*

As cargo traffic is expanding rapidly, transparent rules on financing infrastructure traffic are of paramount importance. A framework that supports safe, efficient port development and ensures a level playing field is still missing.

A good point to start would be an impact assessment of the current situation. It is crucial to study carefully where the market functions and where it does not, before further proposals are tabled. The lack of such an assessment has always been one of the points most criticized by EUROCHAMBRES.

"European businesses need competitive and open ports. Any new legislative proposal makes sense only if competitive ports are not put at a disadvantage", Mr Abruzzini concluded.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms. Cindy Fökehrer, tel.: +32 2-282 08 65, foekhrer@eurochambres.be

PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.be

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