

PRESS RELEASE

Small Business Act: Time for politicians to translate words into deeds

On the day of the launch of the European Commission's public consultation on the Small Business Act, EUROCHAMBRES calls for a concerted effort by decision-makers that demonstrates their commitment to addressing the concerns of SMEs in Europe.

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are a source of stability and are the main drivers of economic growth and social cohesion in Europe, accounting for 100 millions local jobs. Yet their ability to compete effectively in an increasingly challenging global market is compromised by a complex regulatory framework and the unfavourable attitude to enterprises by key public and private stakeholders and society at large.

The Small Business Act (SBA) can provide answers to most of these SMEs' concerns.

But for this, EUROCHAMBRES urges the European Commission to thoroughly reflect on a legal framework that will make the SBA binding.

"We ask the Commission to be ambitious, to go further than the US-style SBA and beyond a mere action plan or a charter. We need actions, common targets and progress to change the reality for small businesses on the ground. Europe can only get more attractive and competitive if politicians now translate their words into deeds," said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

The SBA is a top priority for the business community in 2008 and EUROCHAMBRES will submit a detailed response to the consultation, beyond the reductive 'yes/no' approach presented by the Commission.

EUROCHAMBRES' preliminary position on the Small Business Act can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/PDF/pdf_position_2007/PP_SBA_FINAL.pdf

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