

PRESS RELEASE

Time for Better Results from Better Regulation, Chambers say

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, strongly endorses the Commission's new strategic communication on Better Regulation.

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"We hope this will re-energise efforts in this crucial area. Complicated and burdensome regulations are one of the main barriers to business creation and economic growth, especially for smaller companies. It is only by reducing such burdens on business that a truly dynamic and competitive European economy with more jobs can be realised and the Lisbon goals be achieved."*

Mr Leitl continued: *"Up to now has been much talked about less and better regulation but little concrete action has been seen. Recent similar initiatives under the Dutch Presidency where such input was gathered never saw any results and we insist that the process be followed through in future."*

EUROCHAMBRES welcomed the Commission's commitment to work proactively with the Council on the simplification of existing legislation. The proposal to seek input not only from Member States but also from business itself will add considerable on-the-ground expertise to this process in Chambers' view.

Referring to the importance of SMEs, Mr Leitl said: *"SMEs are the backbone of the European economy. Therefore, it is crucial to take the needs of SMEs into account in the design of legislation as well as to strengthen the SME aspect of impact assessment."*

With respect to new proposals, Chambers are pleased to see that impact assessments will be improved and most importantly that a 'competitiveness test' will be used to screen all new proposals for their impact on competitiveness. This should ensure a better quality of legislation and mean that unnecessary burdens on Europe's businesses can be avoided. *"Prevention of the problem is always better than troubleshooting afterwards"*, Mr Leitl concluded.

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