

## EUROCHAMBRES discusses EU Presidency with Lithuanian Government

EUROCHAMBRES' President Alessandro Barberis today discussed priorities for the second semester 2013 Presidency of the European Council with Lithuanian Chancellor Alminas Mačiulis.

Mr Barberis commended the Lithuanian Government for the constructive and transparent approach it is taking to preparing for its first EU Presidency term. He also submitted to Chancellor Mačiulis a series of recommendations from the Chamber network for the six-month period, focusing on the internal market, smart regulation, SME policy, Eastern Partnership and EU-U.S. trade negotiations.

- A Council level discussion with business representatives on improving the enforcement of existing **single market** legislation and a review of the role of mutual recognition;
- Five years after heads of state endorsed the **Small Business Act**, a December EU Summit reflection on progress made and measures still required to make the EU a better place to create, develop and run a business;
- A renewal and reinforcement of member states' so far largely superficial commitment to the **smart regulation** agenda on the 10th anniversary of the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making;
- Focus the **Eastern Partnership** Summit that Lithuania will host in November on improving the business climate in these six countries, coupled with accelerated progress on association or free trade agreements;
- Ensure that the SME angle is prominent in the **EU-U.S.** Trade and Investment negotiations that the Lithuanian Presidency will steer and that clear and innovative provisions in this field are included.

### New EU legislative term: less is more

EUROCHAMBRES believes that, apart from managing on-going business efficiently, the Lithuanian Presidency should look ahead to the new EU legislative term that starts next year.

*"The 2009-14 period has been dominated by the economic crisis, but the new EU legislative term must focus on revitalising the economy. A good motto for the 2014-19 term would be 'less is more': less regulatory burdens, less internal market and trade barriers, less obstacles to creating jobs and running a business. This does not mean, though, less Europe; on the contrary, the EU can and must play a key role in ensuring that the policy agenda is fit for the purpose of creating more jobs and growth,"* said Mr Barberis.

**EUROCHAMBRES' recommendations for the Lithuanian EU Presidency can be downloaded from [www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=5090](http://www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=5090)**

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