

## Small Business Act Review: 12 priority measures to do more and better

Ahead of the Informal Competitiveness Council's discussions on the Small Business Act (SBA) Review this week, EUROCHAMBRES urged EU ministers to identify a short list of priority measures for adoption and implementation in 2011.

In a letter sent to the Hungarian Minister chairing the meeting, Zoltan Cséfalvay, EUROCHAMBRES set out 12 measures that Chambers consider priorities for implementation of the review at national and EU level. Among those addressed directly to member states:

- **Smart Regulation: apply the “think small first” principle not only to legislation but also to administrative procedures affecting SMEs.** In particular, the systematic use of the SME test in all impact assessments, the application of the ‘only once’ principle, the simplification of legislation and the reduction of administrative burdens on businesses should advance swiftly.
- **Access to markets: enhance electronic interoperability in the Internal Market.** Member states must work with the EU institutions to enhance electronic interoperability, notably through progress on the mutual recognition of e-identification and e-authentication across the EU and the revision of the Directive on Electronic Signatures, both featured also in the Single Market Act.
- **Access to finance: implement the revised Late Payment Directive swiftly and effectively.** The review of this directive – seen as a key measure to mitigate the impact of the crisis on SMEs – was delayed by many months. National administrations must make up for lost time by transposing its new elements rapidly into their own rules and procedures, thus easing the cash flow of thousands of SMEs.
- **Governance: appoint national SME Envoys.** Senior policy makers with considerable political weight should be assigned rapidly to this important role of coordinating and controlling the implementation of the SBA across different public services.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“Doing more to cut red tape, improve access to finance and enhance market access and doing it faster should be the mantra of this week’s Council discussions. The Small Business Act Review offers ministers a useful tool-box to achieve these goals; we are now expecting concrete actions from them.”*

**EUROCHAMBRES’ letter to Hungarian Minister Zoltan Cséfalvay can be downloaded from [www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=3266](http://www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=3266)**

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