

Tripartite Social Summit: What EUROCHAMBRES would have said...

Unless Europe will commit to carrying out dramatic economic reforms, it will not catch up with the current U.S. levels of competitiveness, and, worse, it will be caught up by China in a relatively short time-frame. The results of EUROCHAMBRES' last 'Time-Distance Study' speak clearly in this respect.

A focus on growth should therefore be the primary concern of leaders gathering at tomorrow's Tripartite Social Summit, preceding the Spring European Council.

In particular, EUROCHAMBRES believes that a special effort should be put on innovation, and that the share of R&D investment from the private sector should be greatly enhanced through an effective and coherent patent system, and through simplified application procedures for SMEs for Community programmes for research and innovation.

R&D should also be promoted into climate-friendly technologies, if European companies are to maintain a competitive edge while at the same time benefiting the environment. Also, ensuring international cooperation is an absolute must for an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable climate policy.

Last but not least, growth should be the main focus of the new cycle of the Lisbon Strategy. Member States should set themselves concrete targets for all Lisbon indicators in their National Reform Programmes, and ensure that these targets are actually attained.

"This is what we would have said at tomorrow's Tripartite Social Summit if our numerous requests to be attending it had been taken into account. Regrettably, this has not been the case," said Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES.
