

## Translating Skills Into Employment requires both demand and supply measures

Speaking today at a major EU business event, EUROCHAMBRES Vice-President, Richard Weber, reminded policy makers that measures to increase the employability of young people will only prove effective if they are based on the human resource requirements of the private sector. This, he argued, requires the central involvement of trusted intermediary bodies such as Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

EUROCHAMBRES considers the aims of the recently announced Youth Guarantee initiative wholly laudable, but continues to highlight that skills are not enhanced through EU level agreements and jobs are not created by decree. Referring to his personal experience of the dual system in his native Germany, in which Chambers play a central role, Vice-President Weber said: *'Young people require structured schemes that will provide them with opportunities to combine work based and classroom based learning. Such schemes will help reduce the skills mismatch reported by so many businesses even in these times of high unemployment, but only if large and small businesses are integral to their development, management and governance.'*

Vice-President Weber was speaking at a European Business Summit session on 'Translating Skills Into Employment' alongside Laszlo Andor and took the opportunity to remind the European Commissioner for Employment of the pivotal role played by Chambers in the delivery of apprenticeship schemes in a number of member states.

*'I sometimes sense that the EU level discussions on youth unemployment are being held in a parallel dimension to the everyday reality that Chambers experience and witness. There are no quick fixes or short-cuts, but the formula is simple: with a generally sound economic climate, employment and in turn growth can be created through efficiently matching labour market supply and demand. This is neither easy nor cheap, but the socio-economic benefits far outweigh the costs.'*

EUROCHAMBRES continues to argue for a central involvement in the soon to be launched European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

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Further information: Mr Ben Butters, Tel. +32 2 282 08 71, [butters@eurochambres.eu](mailto:butters@eurochambres.eu)  
Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)  
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