

PRESS RELEASE

Corporate Social Responsibility: EU Chambers welcome the Alliance, not the process

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the set up of an Alliance with industry to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as announced today by EU Commissioner Günter Verheugen, and hopes to be closely involved in the up-take and implementation of the process.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“The proposed actions of the Alliance seem to be consistent and aligned with the priorities of the Growth and Jobs strategy: to make Europe a pole of excellence on CSR in support of a competitive and sustainable enterprise and market economy.”*

EUROCHAMBRES is particularly pleased about the approach of the Alliance, which prescribes “voluntary commitment of European business” and does not foresee controls or minimum standards for CSR claims.

However, EUROCHAMBRES regrets the closed nature of the consultation process leading to the announcement which excluded some stakeholders – among others Chambers of Commerce, which represent some 18 million enterprises in Europe.

Mr Abruzzini argued: *“Chambers appreciate the willingness of the Alliance to facilitate the exchange of experience and ideas among SMEs. We hope this will be translated into a useful dialogue with Chambers of Commerce, which are close to SMEs on the ground.”*

Chambers have always been committed to CSR development, and have a significant know-how in terms of exchange of best practices and partnership building. Chambers are willing to give their full support in order to keep up the pace of development of CSR in Europe.

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EUROCHAMBRES has member organisations in 44 countries representing a network of 2,000 regional and local Chambers with over 18 million member companies.