

PRESS RELEASE

EU budget 2008: EUROCHAMBRES welcomes focus on growth and jobs

Yesterday the European Commission adopted the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2008. For the first time, more money should be devoted to growth and employment policies, rather than to agriculture and natural resources*. EUROCHAMBRES highly welcomes this proposal, which goes in the direction of giving priority to the attainment of the Lisbon targets.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"We believe that the overall focus of the EU budget should be on fostering growth and jobs... Anyway EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the Commission's proposal, which shows willingness to make Europe more competitive. We now call on the Parliament and the Council to confirm the lines of expenditure included in this preliminary draft budget, and we urge both European institutions and Member States to maintain the trend: growth and employment should also receive the bulk of the EU budget in the coming years."*

* Compared with 2007, expenditure for growth and employment policies increases by 4.2% to reach a level of 44.2%, whereas spending for agriculture and natural resources remains substantially stable at a level of 43.6%. Overall, the renewed Lisbon Strategy appears at the core of EU activities, with about 57 billion euros spent on policies for growth and employment.

*FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Giovanni Campi, tel.: +32 2-282 08 83, campi@eurochambres.eu
PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu*

All our press releases can be downloaded from: <http://www.eurochambres.eu/press/>

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents 46 members, a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers with over 19 million member enterprises in Europe.