

## **Charter for Small Enterprises: The farewell conference?**

EUROCHAMBRES hopes that the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference on the European Charter for Small Enterprises, starting tomorrow in Bled (Slovenia), will prove also to be the final one, as the Charter makes way for the forthcoming 'Small Business Act for Europe'.

EUROCHAMBRES has always supported the Charter as a useful mechanism to address the interests and needs of small businesses in Europe. However, the process has proved to be flawed, with considerable differences in the depth and speed of reforms between Member States.

The Small Business Act (SBA), due to be adopted on 2 July, can play a more valuable role, reinforcing this process and committing public authorities at EU, national and regional level more fully to the creation of a favourable environment for Europe's SMEs.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"Now that the Charter has gone through a full reporting cycle, it is time for us to bid it a fond farewell. The Small Business Act must build on the Charter's achievements by enhancing Member State engagement and introducing a number of ambitious new measures, long-awaited by European SMEs."*

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Further information: Mrs Typhaine Beaupérin-Holvoet, Tel. +32 2 282 08 80, [beauperin@eurochambres.eu](mailto:beauperin@eurochambres.eu)  
Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)  
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