

## Eastern Partnership Summit: Businesses call for words to be followed by deeds

*“Be practical and proactive, taking into account businesses’ needs in your policy decisions,”* is the pledge that EUROCHAMBRES’ Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini makes to the heads of state and government gathering at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on 29-30 September.

*“The Eastern Partnership dialogue between the EU and the six Eastern Partnership countries is very important in creating a favourable business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from both sides,”* Mr Abruzzini adds, *“it is only when businesses know that they can operate in an open, sound and stable macroeconomic environment, with transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable regulations, that they can envisage a long-term perspective and create sustainable business links with each other.”*

The creation of the right framework conditions by policy-makers goes hand in hand with practical measures like the East Invest project that EUROCHAMBRES operates. The three-year economic development and investment promotion programme aims to create sustainable links between business support organisations and SMEs from the EU and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries.

SMEs from the EU and the EaP countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine – have the possibility to benefit from the East Invest programme on three levels. They can profit directly through participation in the East Invest matchmaking events throughout the EU and investment fora, which EUROCHAMBRES organises in each EaP country. Secondly, enterprises can benefit indirectly, as the programme builds “bridges” between EU and EaP business support organisations, which facilitates international cooperation for SMEs. Finally, the programme should also contribute to shaping a more favourable business environment, through improved lobbying by these business organisations, which may be the most important benefit in the longer run.

**A full insight into East Invest activities is available at <http://www.eastinvest.eu>.**

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