

PRESS RELEASE**European business urges French Yes vote**

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry warned that a French No to the Constitutional Treaty in the referendum on 29 May would be a major setback and for economic reform in Europe.

EUROCHAMBRES President Christoph Leitl said: *“The EU needs to take quick and efficient decisions. The Constitutional Treaty provides these instruments and strengthens the role of the European Parliament and the EU citizens. A French rejection would risk throwing Europe back to the Nice Treaty which is inadequate for a well-functioning EU of 25 Member States with negative effects on a weak economy.”*

As major progress of the EU Constitutional Treaty Chambers highlighted

- the streamlining of decision-making processes e.g. by the extension of qualified majority decisions;
- the reduction of unnecessary, excessive regulation that is undermining the competitiveness of businesses by the principle of subsidiarity;
- stronger involvement of citizens and business by the principle of participatory democracy;
- increased attention to economic and monetary union.

Chambers have been actively involved in Yes campaigns all over Europe. The French Chambers disseminated a brochure about the impacts of the Constitution to 2 million member companies.

Mr Leitl further said: *“Without France, the EU would not even exist today. I strongly hope that the French people – after an instructive debate – will one more time take up the cudgels for Europe’s future.*

“However, there are lessons to learn from all the national debates on the European Constitution. It shows that we have failed to communicate the benefits of the European Union to the EU citizens. That said, the EU must not become the scapegoat for political interests at national level.”

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