

Employment Summit: **EUROCHAMBRES proposes Pact for Sustainable Jobs**

EUROCHAMBRES was part of the employers' delegation which participated in today's special Employment Summit in Prague to consider the impact of the crisis on jobs with the European Commission and the Prime Ministers and Employment Ministers of the Czech-Swedish-Spanish EU Presidencies.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, proposed a Pact for Sustainable Jobs between all stakeholders to address the challenge of employment in the context of the current recession.

Mr Abruzzini said: *"Businesses polled by EUROCHAMBRES recently demonstrated that, despite the economic downturn, they are very much committed to retaining their staff.* Businesses recognise the crucial importance of skilled, motivated and experienced employees. They are aware that training and skills remain crucial to Europe's competitiveness, not just during the crisis, but in the longer term too. We must therefore improve skills forecasting and increase collaboration between key stakeholders across Europe through a Pact for Sustainable Jobs."*

This Pact should be signed by training organisations, universities, businesses and public authorities to ensure that the provision of training responds to the results of skills forecasting.

Mr Abruzzini also pointed at the need to not only create new jobs, but to find matches for already existing opportunities as well. *"There are 18 million job seekers in Europe, and 4 million vacancies were not filled last year. If we strengthen tools that 'match the unmatched' we could cut unemployment by nearly a quarter overnight!"* he said.

* 12% of members of the European Parliament of Enterprises polled in March 2009 said they would increase the number of people to be employed by their company over the next 6 months, 55% said they would remain the same and 33% that they would decrease.

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