

I Press Release

Brussels, 11 May 2009

## **EUROCHAMBRES Congress in Prague this week!** **Economic crisis and barriers to business on the agenda**

On 14-15 May, EUROCHAMBRES' 16<sup>th</sup> annual Congress will kick-off in Prague, Czech Republic, on the theme "Doing Business Without Barriers".

Chambers of Commerce from all over Europe, representatives from the European institutions (European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee, European Investment Fund, European Institute of Innovation and Technology), members of the Czech Government, small and big enterprises, and important international personalities will debate on the major challenges that businesses face today.

Innovation, energy, the labour market, access to finance, trade within the internal and foreign markets will be at the heart of the Congress' sessions and workshops. Chambers will also present their expertise and best practices in helping their member companies address these challenges.

*"All those involved in charting Europe's route out of the current economic crisis and establishing our business community's long term competitiveness will no doubt value the debates at this two-day event. With this Congress, Chambers wish to contribute to the objective of knocking off barriers to business,"* said EUROCHAMBRES' President Pierre Simon.

Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for enterprise and industry, and Jan Fischer, Czech Prime Minister, will be among the keynote speakers of the Congress' opening session – exceptionally organised in conjunction with the European Commission which will, on the same occasion, conclude the first European SME Week.

At the end of the Congress, Chambers will present a set of recommendations to the incoming Swedish Presidency and to the future European Parliament and European Commission on how to stimulate a dynamic and competitive business environment.

**Journalists wishing to attend should contact EUROCHAMBRES' Press Office, [press@eurochambres.eu](mailto:press@eurochambres.eu).  
More press information on the Congress can be downloaded from  
[www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=1803](http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=1803)**

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All our press releases can be downloaded from [www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153](http://www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153)

EUROCHAMBRES' Congress is organised in collaboration with the Czech Chamber of Commerce and the European Commission, under the Czech Presidency of the EU, in the framework of the first European SME Week and in the context of the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation.



Connecting **business to Europe**

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.