

PRESS RELEASE

**New European Institutions:
Will Europe become a knowledge-based economy or
interesting tourist stop-off? European business
demands**

“There can be no honeymoon period for the new European Commission”, said Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce of Industry.

“The composition of the new Commission will be crucial for the future of Europe. For the European business community the decisive factor in the selection of the new Commissioners is to what extent a candidate can make a substantial contribution to the achievement of the Lisbon target. The new Commission has to align its legislative initiatives with the overarching aim of becoming the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world.”

Key questions for the new Commission are also the allocation of competences and how successfully the EC will co-operate with the Parliament, European Council, the Social Partners and the European Central Bank as well as with the players on the national and regional level.

“The first task of the new Commission will be to elaborate a road map for Lisbon with detailed actions and annual evaluations in order to react in time to delays and necessary adaptations,” Mr Leitl stated.

Christoph Leitl concluded: *“These are preconditions to promote growth and employment in Europe. But we should be aware what will happen, if we fail to position the Lisbon target as the focal point: In this case Europe will be reduced to a tourist attraction, and we can be content if tourists stop to visit this place in the course of a journey around the world.”*

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, tel.: +32 2-282 08 52, abruzzo@eurochambres.be
PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Tosca Purr, tel.: +32 2 -282 08 53, purr@eurochambres.be

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