

PRESS RELEASE**Competitiveness Council:
Good progress, now more needed**

Today's Competitiveness Council in Luxembourg brought overall good news to EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Political consensus was reached on two key issues affecting European business – the European Institute of Technology and the Community Customs Code – thus giving way for further negotiations to continue in the next months.

European Institute of Technology (EIT)

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the political agreement reached today concerning the EIT, and urges a rapid agreement with the European Parliament – to allow creation and roll-out of the EIT and the first KICs (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) as quickly as possible.

“While many other important decisions will still need to be taken in the future – for instance concerning the ongoing financing of the EIT, the focus of the KICs, the composition of the EIT board, etc – the most important thing right now is to keep the political process moving forward,” said Arnaldo Abruzzini, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General. *“As such, today's decision is welcome. Let us move on to the detail, and to the implementation.”*

Customs Code

EUROCHAMBRES is also pleased to see that the Council reached a political agreement on a draft regulation aiming at the modernisation the Community Customs Code – which, in its current form, does not offer effective answers to the challenges of international trade.

EUROCHAMBRES now insists on a quick move towards the approval of the implementing provisions of such Code, bearing in mind the need to achieve a balance between effective security controls and the facilitation of international trade.

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