

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **EUROCHAMBRES welcomes Services Agreement** **But fine-tuning and proper implementation are** **necessary to deliver real benefits**

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the political agreement on the Services Directive brokered by the Competitiveness Council last night, and congratulates the institutions for moving the debate forward on a number of contentious issues.

EU Chambers now call on decision-makers to make the necessary fine-tuning and clarifications which will turn the concept of a genuine free and open market for services in Europe into a reality for companies.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“We want to see a Services Directive which frees companies from the unnecessary burdens they face in providing services in another Member State, while avoiding unfair competition between service providers and securing high quality services.”*

In particular, EUROCHAMBRES urges all actors to ensure that the system of single points of contact deliver high quality, practical services to businesses, particularly SMEs, in a timely, efficient and consistent manner across the EU, that clarity and legal certainty is assured and that all barriers to services provision continue to be closely monitored and reviewed.

Since the beginning of the debate, EUROCHAMBRES and its members have been strong supporters of a well functioning internal market for services as an important contribution to fostering the competitiveness of European businesses.

Although the Directive in its current form falls short of the business community's initial hopes and expectations – especially on the freedom to provide services across borders – EUROCHAMBRES hopes that this text can be a real building block to creating a genuine internal market in services in Europe.

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