

Competitiveness Council must address SME policy failings

EUROCHAMBRES urges Competitiveness ministers to seize on the rare inclusion of SME policy on the Council agenda this week in order to reinforce the governance and delivery of the Small Business Act (SBA).

“We welcome the Lithuanian Presidency’s decision to put small and medium enterprises at the heart of its economic policy agenda, reflecting their central role in delivering growth and competitiveness. Five years on from the adoption of the Small Business Act, the message sent by Chambers to the EU leaders is clear: more coherence, greater focus and faster delivery of SME policy,” said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

More coherence: it is imperative to put in place a clear EU strategy on SMEs and define mechanisms for its effective delivery. Tools such as the European Semester and the Network of SME Envoys should be used to improve the governance of the EU SME policy.

Greater focus: the EU lacks small businesses that are likely to grow into medium or large companies bringing to the market new goods and services, trading internationally and creating jobs. Greater focus should be attached to measures to stimulate SMEs’ growth, notably by strengthening innovation and facilitating access to finance and new markets.

Faster delivery: numerous priorities from the previous five years remain undelivered, including two of the cornerstones of the SBA: the revision of the Late Payment Directive and the European Private Company Statute. Until this delivery deficit is addressed, progress towards making Europe a more SME-friendly place will remain slow.

“The SBA must from now on be a regular item on the Competitiveness Council agenda,” concluded Mr Abruzzini.

EUROCHAMBRES’ recommendations for a new SME policy are available [here](#).

Further information: Mrs Typhaine Beaupérin-Holvoet, Tel. +32 2 282 08 80, beauperin@eurochambres.eu

Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu

All EUROCHAMBRES’ press releases can be downloaded from

www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153



[Follow @EUROCHAMBRES on Twitter!](https://twitter.com/EUROCHAMBRES)