

## EUROCHAMBRES pleased with Industrial Policy focus

EUROCHAMBRES broadly welcomes the European Commission's new Industrial Policy flagship initiative, as it addresses the key factors for creating the right framework conditions for European industry to thrive and compete internationally.

*"It is a useful roadmap for more specific actions,"* stated Arnaldo Abruzzini, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General. *"Services and industry are of course heavily interconnected, so we welcome that industry is not considered in isolation anymore but as a central element of the value chain."*

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the proposed "competitiveness proofing" and "fitness checks" on all legislative proposals/existing legislation relating to industrial policy, and calls for the systematic inclusion of the SME test in both tools.

Also, economic, social and environmental sustainability should be duly considered. *"Europe's industry needs to be competitive and it is widely acknowledged that this competitiveness must be based on innovation and a highly skilled workforce, rather than low costs. This should also be taken into consideration when measuring the success and sustainability of industrial policy,"* said Mr Abruzzini.

EUROCHAMBRES however sounded a note of caution on the way that the internationalisation of SMEs is handled in the paper. *"We continue to insist on the need for Commission services and agencies to adopt a coherent approach to measures to support SME internationalisation, notably the development of SME centres in third countries. The communication offers little reassurance on this point,"* concluded Mr Abruzzini.

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Further information: Mrs Birgit Arens, Tel. +32 2 282 08 57, [arens@eurochambres.eu](mailto:arens@eurochambres.eu)  
Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)  
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