

Energy Strategy: Chambers endorse energy efficiency focus

European Chambers today strongly welcomed the emphasis on energy efficiency in the European Commission's new Energy Strategy.

A recent EUROCHAMBRES survey* revealed that businesses are conscious of the importance and benefits of using energy more efficiently, yet most of them lack the information and resources to do so. Improved access to finance, tax incentives and awareness-raising campaigns are considered as the most useful instruments in this respect.

"We are encouraged that the Commission acknowledges the need for a wider use of energy audits and for support mechanisms for small businesses to help them enhance their energy efficiency," said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. *"It is clear to us that energy-saving measures should remain voluntary for companies – they must be incentivised to take them up, rather than burdened with additional administrative requirements. We will remain vigilant on the implementation measures that will be proposed by the European Commission."*

EUROCHAMBRES also welcomed the emphasis on innovation in the new strategy, underlining the key role that the private sector will continue to play in delivering the EU's energy and climate goals.

"Technological developments in the energy field will drive Europe's capacity to innovate and compete globally," said Mr Abruzzini.

* The survey was conducted in the framework of the CHANGE project, coordinated by EUROCHAMBRES, delivered by 60 Chambers in 12 European countries and co-financed through the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. CHANGE has helped SMEs optimise their energy use through the development of a European network of intelligent energy advisors.

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