

## Annual Growth Survey 2013 reflects weak delivery and governance of Europe 2020

The 2013 Annual Growth Survey (AGS) published today by the European Commission confirms EUROCHAMBRES' view that many member states are failing to deliver the reforms needed to create growth and jobs.

EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini commented: *"It is worrying that the 2013 AGS is so similar to last year's. This demonstrates that the structural reform process has stagnated in a number of member states at precisely the juncture when it is most needed, and that the Europe 2020 governance structures are inadequate to compel national authorities to take action."*

### Implementation: lack of progress on reforms

The recommendations in the 2013 AGS, such as shifting the emphasis of tax policies from pure income generation to stimulating growth and competitiveness, appear broadly sound. However, the underlying tone reaffirms that progress on the implementation of structural reforms remains painfully slow in parts of the EU. The recent 2013 EUROCHAMBRES Economic Survey shows that business confidence across the EU is at a 20 year low. Businesses need a sign that the economic recovery is in safe hands and that reforms are being delivered. Restoring financial liquidity is a priority, therefore it is regrettable that the revised Late Payment Directive requirements have only been transposed so far by two member states.

### Governance: involve relevant stakeholders

A new EUROCHAMBRES study on Europe 2020's governance reveals that both national administrations and the European Commission are failing to harness the expertise of key stakeholders in drafting National Reform Programmes and assessing their implementation. EUROCHAMBRES calls for a more robust and systematic involvement of real economy representatives – notably Chambers – and better planning of consultations. [Link](#)

*"The real economy can gauge best if reforms are being delivered and having a positive effect; the Europe 2020 governance process must reflect this,"* concluded Mr Abruzzini.

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