

**PRESS RELEASE****Pierre Simon re-elected President of EUROCHAMBRES**

Pierre Simon has been re-elected as President of EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for a second mandate. The elections were held at EUROCHAMBRES' Plenary Assembly in Paris today, just one day ahead of the Association's annual Congress, where over 500 participants from Chambers, academia, business and institutions will debate regions' contribution to European competitiveness.

Mr Simon outlined his priorities for the next two years: *"It is all about reinforcing the role of Chambers as privileged interlocutors of the European Institutions whenever the voice of businesses – regardless of their sector and size – needs to be heard. Chambers can achieve excellent results when they unite and act as a whole."* When it comes to content, Mr Simon pledged that *"the development of the entrepreneurial spirit"* would be EUROCHAMBRES' *"grand objective"* in the time to come, and that this should be complemented by a *"real and effective implementation of the Lisbon Strategy"* and simplification of the regulatory environment. Finally, M Simon plans to put the issue of sustainable development very firmly on EUROCHAMBRES' agenda.

Mr Simon has been President of EUROCHAMBRES since 1 January 2006. One of the highlights of his first mandate is the publication of the 'Manifesto of European Chambers', a document outlining the Chambers' key competences and policy recommendations to improve the overall business climate in Europe. The Manifesto covers four main fields in which Chambers can make a difference: entrepreneurship, education & training, internationalisation of businesses and innovation.

Mr Simon is also President of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Prior to this, he was inter alia Administrator Director General of 'Paribas', President of 'Crédit du Nord' and General Manager of the 'French Banking and Financial Association'. He was also a member of the European Economic and Social Committee.

A picture and a CV of Pierre Simon can be downloaded from  
[www.eurochambres.eu/press/\\_simon](http://www.eurochambres.eu/press/_simon)

## **New Deputy and Vice Presidents**

Three Deputy-Presidents and six new Vice-Presidents also acquired a fresh mandate. The Deputy-Presidents of EUROCHAMBRES for the period 2007-2009 are: Peter Egardt, President of the Association of Swedish CCIs, George Kassimatis, President of the Union of Hellenic CCIs and Peter Mihok, President of the Slovak CCI.

The Vice-Presidents who have been nominated are: Günter Baumann, President of IHK Stuttgart (Germany), Luca Mantellassi, President of Florence CCI (Italy), Peter Mileham, President of British Chambers of Commerce (UK), Andrzej Arendarski, President of Polish CCI (Poland), José Antonio Quiroga y Piñeyro, President of La Coruña CCI (Spain) and a representative of The Netherlands CCI.

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