

7th Environmental Action Programme: EUROCHAMBRES calls for smarter regulations

EUROCHAMBRES has broadly welcomed the 7th Environmental Action Programme published today by the European Commission but urged EU policymakers to respect 'smart regulation' principles for the creation of new rules and instruments. Moreover, Chambers stressed that at any time global competitiveness aspects need to be taken into account.

Think small first

Considering the limited capacities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Chambers underlined the importance of maintaining correct balance between a high level of environmental protection on the one hand and minimising administrative burden and compliance, on the other.

Commenting on the proposal, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini said: *"Costs and benefits have to be weighed carefully. SMEs often do not have the capacity to comply with strict rules and therefore, it is crucial not to create burdensome regulations with little effects. The Commission's proposed objective to improve the evidence base for environmental policy meets a long-standing demand of EUROCHAMBRES."*

Apart from that, Mr Abruzzini welcomed the Commission's explicit focus on stepping up the implementation of existing policy and legislation: *"The success of our businesses depends on the EU's ability to provide a level playing field inside and outside the internal market. Therefore, the Commission has to focus on both the correct implementation of existing legislation across the Union and international cooperation."*

Market-oriented solutions

Moreover, EUROCHAMBRES expressed its scepticism about new binding targets – as proposed with regard to the reduction of the overall environmental impact of consumption. *"While targets are rigid, a dynamic market approach would help to increase resource-efficient consumption and production where it can be achieved at lowest cost,"* Mr Abruzzini concluded.

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