

PRESS RELEASE

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes ‘demand’ focus in new innovation roadmap

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes Commissioner Günter Verheugen’s communication on broad-based innovation strategy and particularly its focus on knowledge-transfer and on the business-end of the innovation process.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“Of course investing in R&D – the supply of innovation – is good and necessary to boost Europe’s growth. However, we must always pay as much or more attention to the use that can be made of research results. In this respect, the demand for innovative products and services should be further encouraged. The US has well understood the importance of boosting demand for innovation with public procurement policies. This allowed them to have a very productive innovation industry. Europe must also shift its perspective from the supply to the demand side of the innovation process.”*

Another positive aspect of the Communication is the variety of actions proposed, not only at European - but at national and regional level as well.

- **Cooperation between stakeholders:** European Chambers welcome the emphasis put on clusters, which regroup the necessary factors for innovation: capital, brains and entrepreneurs;
- **Community patent:** EUROCHAMBRES stresses the need to tackle decisively the issue of the Community patent: Europe needs a cost effective framework to protect and exploit ideas. The German Presidency should play a key leadership role in this regard;
- **Labour market:** EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the proposed modernisation of education systems to promote an innovation-friendly society and urges the Commission to adopt a coherent economic migration policy to attract highly skilled workers that companies need;
- **Monitoring process:** Chambers support the proposed enhanced linkage between innovation and the reporting process on Lisbon. It is important to follow up the innovation progress with an effective monitoring via national reform reports.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Vincent Tilman, tel.: +32 2-282 08 67, tilman@eurochambres.eu
PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu

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