

PRESS RELEASE**EUROCHAMBRES on Better Regulation:
“Less is good but better is better”**

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the Communication on the screening of legislative proposals, presented by Commissioner Günter Verheugen in the European Parliament yesterday. Although many of the proposals listed will not make a huge difference to the regulatory environment faced by Europe's enterprises, it clears the decks of irrelevant and redundant legislation, Chambers say. They call on the Commission to build on this initiative and move quickly ahead with the better regulation agenda.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES said: *“This opens the way to focus on important issues such as the Services Directive, REACH or the Financial Perspective, which if they are got right will really lead to a fundamental change for business in Europe.”*

“This step is really only the tip of the iceberg and the most important and most difficult part of the process is still ahead of us. A thorough review of the existing legislation on the EU's 80,000-page statute book must be urgently undertaken aimed at removing unnecessary burdens on business and barriers to competitiveness.

“Most importantly of all a change of mindset is needed at the heart of the institutions to ensure better quality regulation in the future. Regulations should be introduced only where there is a real need and alternatives to regulation such as codes of conduct and self regulation must be seen as viable options. Impact, especially on competitiveness, must be thoroughly assessed and these assessments must be taken seriously by policy makers. Finally the views of business and other stakeholders must be taken into account at all stages of the legislative process.”

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