

PRESS RELEASE

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes opening of EU gates to Bulgaria and Romania

The European Commission's report on Bulgaria and Romania released today receives the full support of EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, particularly in so much as it acknowledges the progress made by the two countries in aligning with the EU *acquis communautaire*.

Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"EUROCHAMBRES has always welcomed the economic integration of candidate countries into the EU. On the other hand, we praise the Commission's decision not to hide the obstacles that still remain on the way to integration. We need to keep preparing the business community and civil society at large to ensure a smooth transition and to avoid disillusion."*

In this sense, Chambers – as interlocutors between enterprises and institutions – can be a key instrument to help remove the remaining hurdles and lead Bulgaria and Romania to join the EU-25 club as full members.

"Companies are crucial players in the integration process and must be assisted in preparing for the rigours of EU standards and regulations. Chambers will continue to play an active role in this regard via business development programmes," Mr Simon concluded.

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