

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Pierre Simon to succeed Christoph Leidl as President of EUROCHAMBRES**

Pierre Simon, President of the Paris Chamber of Commerce, will become new President of EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as from 1 January 2006. Mr Simon will succeed the current President Christoph Leidl who has headed EUROCHAMBRES since 2001 and has been granted the title of Honorary President of EUROCHAMBRES.

The election took place at yesterday's Plenary Assembly of EUROCHAMBRES in Stavanger (Norway) which is followed by the Annual Congress of the business organisation with 400 participants from Chambers, businesses and institutions from 50 countries worldwide.

In his speech of investiture, Mr Simon outlined his priorities. He said: *"My action will be ruled by four major principles: service to the companies, solidarity within our own network, the necessity of setting up a free competition area in Europe and of pursuing the adhesion process of the EU candidate countries. These principles generate three major priorities of action: reinforcing the Chambers' influence within the EU institutions, consolidating a strong and efficient network, and improving our way of working."*

Mr Simon is President of the Paris Chamber for almost one year and holds a number of positions in that organisation and its subsidiaries. Prior to this, he was inter alia General Secretary of "Paribas", General Manager and Chairman of "Crédit du Nord" and General Manager of the "French Banking and Financial Association". Mr Simon is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Lyon) and has a doctorate in law. He was a member of the European Economic and Social Committee.

A photo of Mr Simon can be downloaded from [http://www.eurochambres.be/press/\\_simon](http://www.eurochambres.be/press/_simon)

EUROCHAMBRES has member organisations in 44 countries representing a network of 2,000 regional and local Chambers with over 18 million member companies.

### **New Deputy Presidents**

As Deputy Presidents of EUROCHAMBRES were elected: 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

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