

PRESS RELEASE**Bali Summit and the climate paradox**

In real life, too many people on a boat increase the risk that it will sink. When it comes to fighting climate change, the opposite is true. The more people you get into the boat, the less likely it is to sink! In other words, the more countries get on board and paddle together, the higher the chances that the boat – the global effort to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions – will reach its destination: a successful limitation of climate change.

Greater international cooperation is therefore EUROCHAMBRES' strongest plea ahead of the Bali Summit on climate change due to begin next week.

“The business community supports the Commission and Member States in their declared aim for Bali, to launch global negotiations on a comprehensive climate change agreement for the period after 2012. We urge them to reinforce the positive signals that have come from our international partners and create a good basis for the challenging tasks ahead. Climate protection efforts can only have the necessary global impact if as many countries as possible – and especially the (current and potential future) big emitters such as China, India and the US¹ – get on board and join forces,” said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

The EU is drawing closer to meeting its Kyoto goal, according to the European Environment Agency's recent progress report, and it has taken a leadership position in the fight against climate change by adopting ambitious targets for the further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions earlier this year. This shows that the EU is doing its homework and is dealing with the less than 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions for which it is responsible.

The priority for EU leaders must now be on ensuring an adequate participation in the climate protection effort also from other emitters. Each country that agrees to contribute to the global effort reduces concerns about loss of competitiveness by helping to level the global playing field, makes a positive impact on climate change more probable and can thus act as a catalyst encouraging others to come on board.

*FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms Sonja Starnberger, tel.: +32 2-282 08 77, starnberger@eurochambres.eu
PRESS CONTACT: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, tel.: +32 2-282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu*

All our press releases can be downloaded from: <http://www.eurochambres.eu/press/>

¹ In 2004, the USA, China, the EU-25, Russia, Japan and India together accounted for almost 70% of global carbon emissions.