

PRESS RELEASE**Tripartite Social Summit:
EUROCHAMBRES criticises “cosy elitism” which
does not result in concrete results**

Concerning yesterday's Tripartite Social Summit preceding this week's European Council, EUROCHAMBRES criticised the meeting as a cosy, consensus-driven club of a limited number of actors in which process prevails over real discussion.

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES said: *“Has anything changed since the ambitious launch of a Partnership for Change proclaimed by the Irish Presidency last year? Obviously not. The urgently needed inclusive Partnership with all main economic actors which can contribute to growth and employment in Europe remains stillborn. An elite event limited to pre-cooked set presentations can certainly not deliver the envisaged results. It's a charade. It does not deserve being named ‘Informal Tripartite Social Summit for growth and employment’ as it has not contributed to growth or to the gloomy employment situation so far. The door of this club needs to be opened wide to stakeholders which can take decisions and turn commitments into actions. The Tripartite Social Summit needs to re-connect to the Lisbon Strategy. This is the aim outlined by the Council decision.”*

Chambers also underpinned the need to better communicate Social Summits to citizens and the business community. *“The Commission's Plan D - debate, dialogue and democracy – should also be applied to the Social Summits,”* Mr Leitl said. *“The low voter turnout of the elections to the European Parliament and the rejection of the Constitution by French and Dutch citizens have shown how much this plan is needed. We cannot afford to exclude citizens from a debate which has a core relevance for their life – they have a right to be informed!”*

In this respect, EUROCHAMBRES urges that the Tripartite Social Summits in future be made genuinely inclusive, that they allow real debate and discussion rather than ridiculously short set-piece speeches, that they lay down measurable targets and tasks, and that they clearly report on the outcomes achieved.

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