

PRESS RELEASE

Chambers support Energy Efficiency Action Plan, and stress need for individual impact assessments to ensure competitiveness

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, presented by the European Commission today, as a detailed inventory of possible measures for improving energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy. Chambers particularly encourage focusing on informed choice by consumers rather than on new legislation.

“We fully agree with the Commission that energy efficiency is about informed choice by individuals, not just about legislation”, said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. *“This is why EUROCHAMBRES warmly welcomes the Commission’s plans to make awareness raising, education and training priorities.”*

However, Chambers warn against any measures, such as requirements set too tightly or increased bureaucracy, that might endanger competitiveness of EU firms vis-à-vis their international competitors.

In this respect, EUROCHAMBRES is pleased to see that the Commission intends to carry out individual impact assessments for all measures proposed in the Action Plan. It will very much depend on the final design of the measures, whether they will combine environmental with clear economic benefits.

Chambers have experience and want to contribute

Chambers of Commerce are not bystanders in this regard. Many Chambers already run campaigns to improve energy efficiency in companies across Europe. For example, the Nuremberg Chamber (Germany) has launched ‘European Energy Manager’, a concept of further training, which helps employees to identify energy saving projects and present them to their management, especially in terms of cost-benefit analysis. The project currently covers Austria, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom, and will extend to thirteen countries.

Mr Abruzzini said: *“As stated in our recently adopted Manifesto, Chambers have ample expertise in setting up programmes to improve energy efficiency among companies: we are looking forward to contributing further in this respect.”*

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