

PRESS RELEASE

Lisbon Treaty: Signing must imply ratification and communication

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes today's signing of the Lisbon Treaty in so much this will strengthen the weight of the EU on the international scene; allow the Union to better face the challenges of globalisation, climate and demographic change; provide European business with adequate tools and policies in shorter delays and enhance the participatory democracy.

However, the signature that Heads of State and Government will appose on the Treaty, must imply full commitment towards a successful ratification of the text in their respective countries before the Parliamentary elections of 2009.

"The success of having agreed on this text cannot be followed by failure when it comes to its ratification," said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. *"If only one Member State was to say 'no', we would enter into an even worse situation than the one we faced after the negative French and Dutch referenda in 2004. This would lead to a loss of credibility for European politicians and to a major institutional crisis."*

"Also, Member States have the political responsibility to communicate about the benefits of this Treaty to their citizens. The fact that the vast majority of Member States will ratify the Treaty through parliamentary process cannot discharge them from adequately involving citizens in the debate."

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