

PRESS RELEASE

Corporate Social Responsibility: Policy is right, focus is now on practical measures

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, participated in the conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Brussels today, reiterating the Chambers' engagement to move the debate on CSR forward.

EUROCHAMBRES congratulated the Finnish Presidency for bringing CSR stakeholders together at today's conference before concluding its Presidency and particularly welcomed the choice of the central theme of the conference: the link between responsible innovation and competitiveness, i.e. exploring the business challenges and opportunities at the intersection of CSR and Innovation.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"The debate should now focus on concrete, practical actions encouraging businesses to take up CSR, identifying and disseminating examples of best practices throughout the EU. In this respect, we support the recent CSR communication from the Commission that goes in the direction of reducing legislation for companies and not increasing burdensome constrictions that might, in the long term, frustrate innovation. Corporate Social Responsibility is defined as a voluntary commitment, and this is as it should be. Voluntary initiatives by their nature go well beyond the regulatory baseline and often generate better results."*

European Chambers of Commerce continue to work individually and jointly with EUROCHAMBRES and the European Commission to support SMEs in taking more and better social and environmental responsibilities in their daily actions. The "CSR Awareness Campaign" and the ongoing CAESAR Project are concrete examples of the Chambers' commitment in this field.

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