

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Financial Perspectives 2007-2013:  
Decision taken, now let's focus on competitiveness!**

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes European leaders' capacity to reach an agreement on Europe's financial perspectives at yesterday's European Council in Brussels, and calls for a greater focus on competitiveness and growth in future budget discussions.

Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"Europe's priority lies in the revival and competitiveness of the European economy and that this be reflected in the financial perspectives. No compromise on the economy should be made if we want Europe to live up to the major global competition coming from the US, Asia and Latin America."*

Mr Leitl added: *"The agreement reached today is an important signal, not only for business, but the whole of Europe. The summit was finally able to show decision-making and leadership despite the lack of a European Constitution and taking into account that decision-making is made more difficult in an enlarged Europe of 25 Member States. This is an important step in giving Europe back some credibility vis-à-vis its citizens."*

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