

Chambers meet MEPs and test their business credentials

On one side, 400 representatives of Chambers of Commerce from 45 countries. On the other side, four MEPs* representing the largest political groups in the European Parliament and accounting for around 75% of the European Parliament's membership.

This was the set up of the "Chambers Meet MEPs" event, a 90-minutes debate organised by EUROCHAMBRES in Brussels today, which allowed participants to confront on several business-related issues and to test the MEPs' business credentials for the next legislative term.

In his opening speech, Pierre Simon, President of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"We expect to receive a clear signal from the European Parliament that it means business for the new legislative term!"*

Chambers urged the Parliament to pursue a business-friendly agenda and to implement policies that will allow the business community to lead Europe out of the economic crisis and into a period of sustainable growth and competitiveness. They then asked specific questions to MEPs, enquiring their positions on crucial dossiers such as the internal market, the 'European Innovation Act', the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy and plans to cut energy consumption.

All MEPs replied in turn, presenting their group's vision and priorities in these fields.

In conclusion, Chambers stressed that the forthcoming review of the EU Budget will be a litmus test of how seriously the EU institutions intend to reflect these priorities.

In his closing remarks, Mr Simon addressed a call to the MEPs: *"EUROCHAMBRES is committed to engage ever more effectively with EU policy makers to ensure that their decisions reflect the needs of the business community. But remember: we will be watching you! Your comments today have created high expectations and we will be monitoring the voting records of your political groups and constantly re-evaluating your business credentials over the coming months and years."*

* Gunnar Hökmark, EPP; Edit Herczog, S&D; Philippe Lamberts, Greens; Giles Chichester, ECR.

More information on "Chambers Meet MEPs" is available on www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?Pageid=266. EUROCHAMBRES' priorities for the new political term can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=1955

Further information: Mr Arnaldo Abruzzini, Tel. +32 2 282 08 51, abruzzo@eurochambres.eu Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, cominotti@eurochambres.eu All our press releases can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153
