

I Press Release

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Informal Competitiveness Council must give substance to Small Business Act, Chambers say

“The 27 ministers for competitiveness have a valuable opportunity this week to put their weight behind the Small Business Act. Substance must now be given to the SBA text and we expect nothing less than a clear commitment to implement the provisions of this crucial document.”

This is the key message delivered by Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, ahead of the Informal Competitiveness Council in Versailles on 17-18 July.

The Small Business Act (SBA) – adopted by the European Commission on 25 June – contains over 90 separate initiatives, more than 50 of which are addressed to the Member States. How much of the SBA’s content is actually translated into tangible improvements for businesses is therefore largely in the hands of the EU’s 27 Member States. This requires national initiatives to tackle the main burdens highlighted by European small companies (e.g. excessive bureaucracy, poor access to finance, mismatch between skills-demand and supply).

EUROCHAMBRES particularly insists on:

- a commitment to apply the **‘Think Small First’** principle, as clearly defined by the SBA, at EU and national level (e.g. by carrying out SME tests before any new legislation is introduced, respect of the principle of proportionality, the introduction of ‘common commencement dates’ for new EU legislation in all Member States)
- the elaboration of ambitious **national Small Business Acts** integrated into their National Reform Programmes
- the endorsement of the **European Private Company Statute**

“We expect European and National action plans to be prepared between now and the December European Council. It is a question of need, not want. Europe relies on a thriving SME community if it is to maintain its competitiveness and provide the levels of prosperity and protection to which Europeans are accustomed,” concluded Mr Abruzzini.

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