

## **EUROCHAMBRES brings the voice of European businesses to the White House**

As U.S. President Barack Obama comes to the end of his first 100 days in office, a high-level delegation of European Chambers, led by EUROCHAMBRES Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini, was received by the President's Executive Office in Washington D.C. today.

Discussions focussed on hot topics related to business between the EU and the United States, and in particular on the threats related to a rise in protectionism.

Mr Abruzzini stressed that the EU and the US, being the world's main commercial partners, have a common responsibility in ensuring that free trade is not jeopardised by the current economic crisis, and insisted that neither party should introduce protectionist measures or other barriers to trade as a consequence of it.

*"As European business representatives, we hope to see a very explicit commitment from the U.S. administration in terms of a clear 'no' to protectionism and a strong 'yes' to multilateral trade talks in the framework of the World Trade Organisation. European businesses must be able to trade in an open and certain international environment. I trust that our main commercial partner will understand the interest of tearing down barriers to trade, rather than pulling them up,"* said Mr Abruzzini.

EUROCHAMBRES' delegation was one of the first European business groups to have the chance to meet the newly appointed members of Obama's administration. Prior to this meeting, Chambers had had the opportunity to meet members of the U.S. Congress as well.

-----

Further information: Ms Micol Martinelli, Tel. +32 2 282 08 63, [martinelli@eurochambres.eu](mailto:martinelli@eurochambres.eu)  
Press contact: Ms Guendalina Cominotti, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, [cominotti@eurochambres.eu](mailto:cominotti@eurochambres.eu)  
All our press releases can be downloaded from [www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153](http://www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=153)