

Outcomes of online event series 12-14 October 2021

The COVID19 crisis has reinforced the value of a collective European approach to key issues. As such, the Conference on the Future of Europe comes at an important juncture as we manage the legacy of the pandemic and pursue a swift and sustainable revival.

Chambers of Commerce & Industry have been closer than ever to their members since the crisis began and recognise their important role in helping businesses to recover from the dramatic economic slowdown.

The EUROCHAMBRES Reviving Europe online series delved into many aspects of these issues across 8 short online sessions and enabled an exchange of views and opinions on some of the key policy levers at the EU's disposal to drive the economic recovery. Europe needs a new spirit and a new enthusiasm!

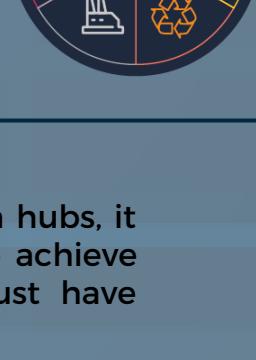
Reviving Europe's recovery based on

An Entrepreneurial Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe needs to define a positive, engaging narrative on the EU. Businesses are crucial to Europe's recovery and twin transition, so the EU must ensure a favourable regulatory environment and effective support system for both new and established entrepreneurs.

A dynamic single market for an economic revival

The crisis highlighted the importance of the single market and we must now capitalise on its full potential to drive the recovery. This requires renewed engagement from EU and national policy-makers, not just to roll back the short-term barriers of the pandemic, but also to tackle enduring obstacles to free movement.

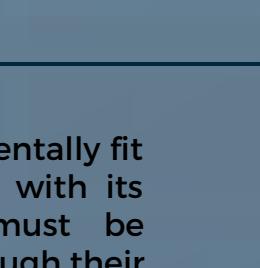


Artificial Intelligence as a driver of the recovery

If the EU is to become one of the world's strongest innovation hubs, it needs to set the right framework for artificial intelligence. To achieve this, Europe's most promising AI business applications must have better access to financing in order to scale up.

Making businesses fit for 55

The energy transition must be pursued in a timely and cost-effective manner, especially given the current energy crunch. The EU must ensure the framework conditions for companies to see a business case for renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures. It is critical for companies to have adequate access to affordable renewable and low-carbon energy.



A competitive Europe for a global recovery

A competitive Europe needs not only to digitally and environmentally fit for the future, but also internationally, to forge strong links with its economic partners and maximise its interests. SMEs must be empowered to capitalise on opportunities across the world through their full consideration in the EU's global trade agenda.

Corporate due diligence: opportunities and challenges for SMEs

SMEs will be able to maximise sustainable value creation if the legal framework on due diligence across the supply chain is tailored to their size and specificities. We must ensure a level playing field both within the EU and internationally, avoiding disproportionate reporting burdens and increased liability risks that would undermine Europe's competitiveness.



A resilient labour market for a reviving economy

While the economy recovers, skills shortages intensify. Intra-EU labour mobility must be enhanced, and skills supply must reflect businesses' demands, particularly in the area of digital skills. Member states should leverage recovery funds and ESF+ to build a more resilient and flexible labour market.

Key factors for recovery in the Western Balkans, Turkey and the Eastern Partnership countries

Chambers are key factors in the economic revival, especially in the fields of education and digitalisation. The EU and the EIB provide substantial financial support for various initiatives, which will remain important in building on the strong signs of recovery in the Western Balkans, Turkey and the Eastern Partnership countries.

