

2022

Annual Report

EUROCHAMBRES

FOREWORD

2022 was a difficult year for Europe on many levels. This certainly presented considerable challenges for businesses and thus shaped the focus and activities of Eurochambres.

As the year began, the priority of the business community and policy-makers alike was ensuring that the tentative economic recovery gathered momentum after two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following the severe constraints on both production and demand that characterized 2020 and 2021, the aim for 2022 was to restore Europe's competitiveness and capitalise on the single market to drive the digital and green transition. Chambers of commerce and industry across the continent were engaged in this process, acting as the bridge between the millions of businesses looking to revive their activities and the public authorities seeking to provide effective support.

The brutal and unexpected invasion of Ukraine by Russia in late February was a major setback for peace and stability in Europe, and our focus changed to dealing with the human and economic impact of the war. The ripple effect of the war spread swiftly across Europe and, as energy prices and costs in general soared and supply chain disruption grew, chambers again worked with policy-makers in seeking to mitigate the negative impact on businesses. This was to continue throughout 2022.

Eurochambres underlined the vital role of key growth levers in the hands of the EU, notably the single market and our international trade agenda, which must remain ambitious in the face of protectionist tendencies and geopolitical uncertainty. We also insisted on the need to adjust the EU's policy agenda and objectives to take into account the hugely challenging conditions in which businesses were operating.

Our 2022 annual report provides an overview of Eurochambres' work throughout the year: our advocacy on behalf of the business community, our coordination of EU-funded activities for businesses delivered by chambers, and our initiatives to support the connectivity, cooperation and development of the European chamber network. Although it was a year overshadowed by war, there were many positive moments and encouraging developments, as you will see from this report.

Eurochambres works with the chamber network to enable entrepreneurs to adapt to changing business conditions, responding to challenges and identifying opportunities. We would like to thank our members, our interlocutors in the EU institutions and the many other organisations and stakeholders with whom we worked for their cooperation in tackling the many challenges that emerged during 2022. We look forward to our continued collaboration as we all strive for a united, secure and prosperous Europe.



LUC FRIEDEN

Eurochambres President



BEN BUTTERS

Eurochambres CEO



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ABOUT EUROCHAMBRES

Eurochambres is the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry established on 28 February 1958 as a direct response to the creation of the European Economic Community.

Eurochambres' vision is an integrated, globally competitive Europe, where businesses can prosper and drive socio-economic progress. Chambers have an active role to play in the pursuit of this vision. Reflecting this, Eurochambres strives to represent chambers of commerce and industry and their member companies towards the EU institutions, to identify relevant joint activities and capacity building across the European chamber network.

Eurochambres represents over 20 million businesses in Europe through 45 members and a European network of 1700 regional and local chambers. More than 93% of these businesses are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

01 ADVOCACY

Based on regular consultation with its members, Eurochambres represents European business interests to the EU institutions. The main goal is to ensure that the views of businesses are taken into account in policy-making and implementation. For this, Eurochambres capitalizes on the chamber network's strong connection with the grassroot economy and develops evidence-based policy positions that reflect the needs of the European business community, particularly SMEs.

DELIVERY

Eurochambres manages and coordinates various EU co-funded projects in collaboration with chambers and other partners to the benefit of businesses and Europe's sustainable economic development more generally. These projects relate to Eurochambres' policy priorities and thus cover a wide range of activities that are designed to enhance Europe's competitiveness.

03 CONNECTIVITY

The voice of the European business community and role of chambers is promoted through ongoing communication activities, conveying the views of our members and their constituents on key issues in a timely manner. Eurochambres also enables chambers to connect with each other through a range of activities and events, both online and in-person, thus enabling chambers to cooperate, advance and maximise the network effect.



OVERVIEW

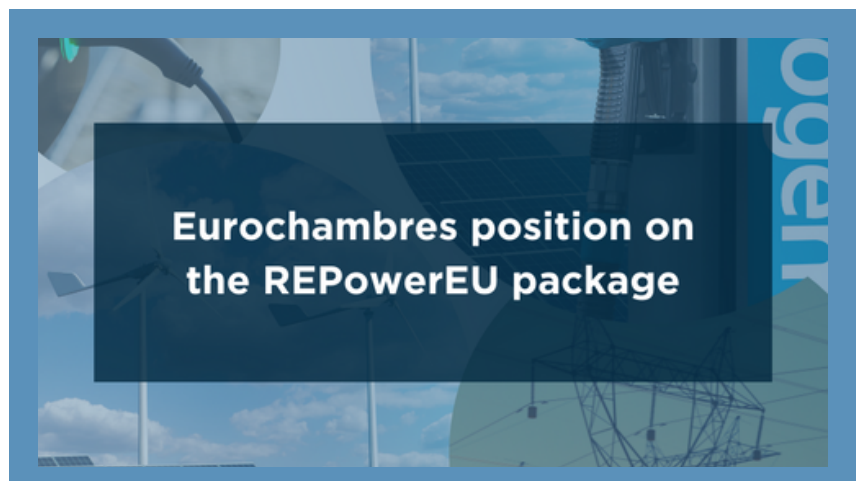
Beyond its deeply troubling humanitarian, security and geopolitical impact, the Russian's invasion of Ukraine in February significantly exacerbated an already tough economic situation across Europe. Heavy supply-chain disruptions, soaring energy and carbon prices, shortages in raw materials and high inflation – already experienced before the war in Ukraine – worsened during 2022.

Such uncertainty has taken its toll on growth prospects for 2023, as the 30th annual Eurochambres Economic Survey pointed out. Extraordinarily high prices have also sparked a reappraisal of energy policies and priorities. Eurochambres has issued statements to the European Council calling for emergency mechanisms to help businesses cope with high energy and gas prices as well as for further joint initiatives, such as the voluntary EU Energy Purchase Platform to safeguard the gas supply.

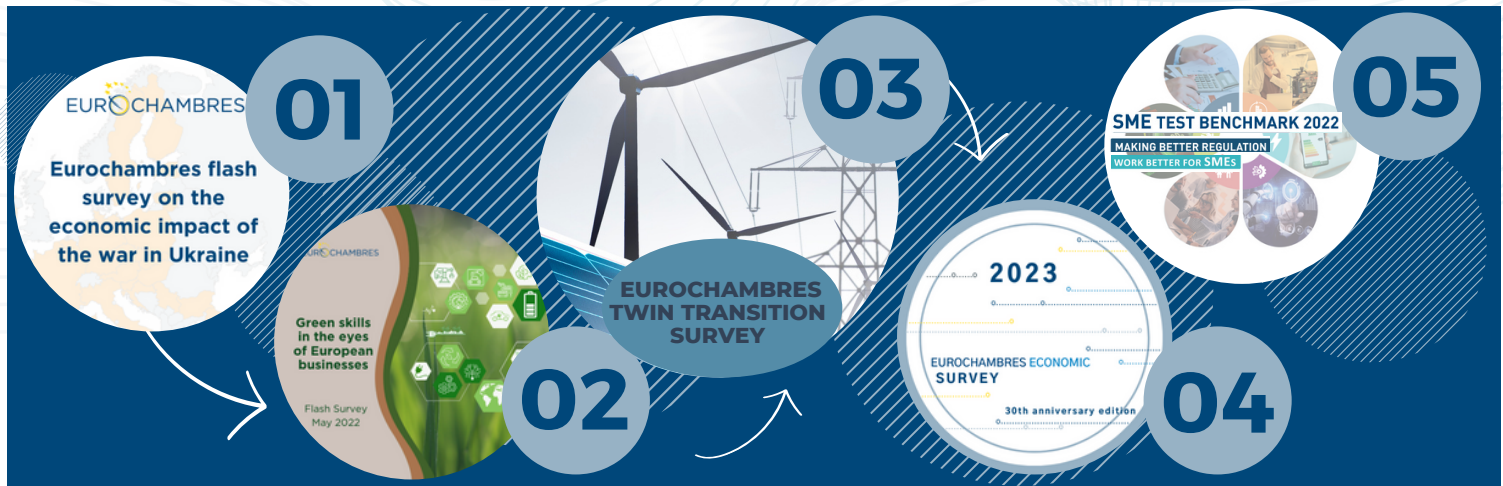


Eurochambres President Luc Frieden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the EU Tripartite Social Summit in October 2022

The legacy of the pandemic and the impact of the war had an imprint across many aspects of Eurochambres' 2022 policy work, which covered a wide range of dossiers related to the six committees' priorities. Key files included corporate due diligence, the Single Market Emergency Instrument, Data Act, Chips Act, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, REPowerEU and the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.



Eurochambres policy messages were enhanced through evidence gathered from the chamber network through various surveys, studies and reports.



Eurochambres advocated for the importance of an SME-friendly approach to the EU's ambitious new industrial strategy and a favourable regulatory framework. This was reinforced by the SME Test Benchmark report, produced in collaboration with BusinessEurope and SMEUnited and presented during the November EU SME Assembly in Prague.

Eurochambres remained actively involved in a range of EU expert groups, as well as in the European Commission's SME Envoy Network and the European Parliament's SME Intergroup.



Overall, more than 20 policy thematic events were organised, notably the high-level "Eurochambres Competitiveness Compass: a route to a business-friendly Europe" conference brought together institutional speakers and leaders of European chambers to discuss and identify key policy measures to be considered for the remainder of the 2019-2024 EU mandate and beyond.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Supporting Europe's entrepreneurial spirit through a well-functioning and competitive businesses environment

**Committee Chair
Wolfgang Grenke**

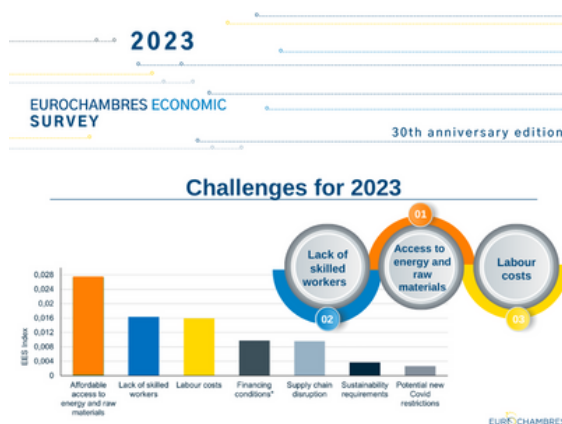
Eurochambres Vice-President and Member of the Board of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry

A well-functioning business environment depends on the capacity to create suitable conditions without excessive market intervention. The level playing field must be ensured to preserve European businesses competitiveness vis-à-vis foreign competitors.

The 30th consecutive edition of the Eurochambres Economic Survey published in November and based on replies from over 40.000 entrepreneurs confirmed a negative outlook among businesses for 2023, with business confidence levels at a historic low, due notably to challenges in the areas of affordable energy and skills shortages.



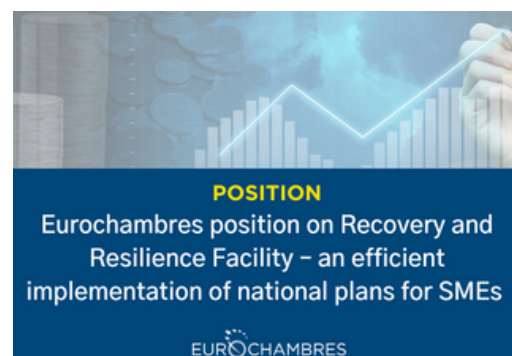
Eurochambres CEO Ben Butters at the SME Intergroup meeting with Commissioner Margrethe Vestager & MEP Martina Dlabajová



Eurochambres CEO Ben Butters at the SME Assembly 2022 in Prague

This feedback from businesses underlines why the mobilisation of European funding must be efficient in providing SMEs with financial security to navigate the current uncertain waters. Eurochambres called for the swift deployment of the Next Generation EU recovery plan and its key instrument, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, underlining that the funding must reach SMEs. In this regard, chambers of commerce and industry play a strategic role in providing immediate technical support, alongside national governments.

The war in Ukraine has led to considerable challenges for national economies and their capacity to absorb the resources available in the national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). The committee strived to identify paths towards allocating resources in order to help companies. We worked towards including effective business-friendly measures in the national RRP.



Improving the regulatory framework is also a key component of a well-functioning market. The committee, building on the policy recommendations presented in the SME Test Benchmark report, reiterated the need for careful evaluations of the implications of legislative initiatives for SMEs. Unnecessary regulatory burdens jeopardise the economic recovery of businesses and should therefore be alleviated, if not eliminated.

SME Test Benchmark 2022 Making better regulation work better for SMEs

Recommendations to ensure the Better Regulation approach leads to a better regulatory framework for SMEs



In line with the "think small first" principle, the European Commission services must reflect on SME needs and foresee a more inclusive involvement of SME stakeholders.

Dedicate chapters to a thorough assessment of the impact on SMEs to consolidate this information in a clear and transparent manner.

Differentiate size-classes of SMEs to allow for a more granular and targeted assessment of each initiative's impact.

Systematically assess the indirect effects of policies, without limiting solely to the direct effects.

This rationale is important in relation to the direct and indirect impacts on businesses resulting from the proposed new Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. Before and after the adoption of this proposal in February, Eurochambres has emphasised the damaging effect on businesses from a lack of legal certainty and called harmonisation needed in terms of scope, reporting standards, liability, and enforcement.

"The position on CSDD brings substantive recommendations on how to create a level playing field for EU companies and avoid liability litigation risks."



Interview with Eurochambres Economic Policy committee chair – Wolfgang Grenke



Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence event, November 2022



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Standing up for open, fair, and predictable trade for European companies and especially SMES, to improve Europe's global competitiveness

Committee Chair
Ian Talbot

Eurochambres Deputy-President
CEO of Chambers Ireland

European business and welfare depend to a great extent on the ability to maintain open markets, underpinned by free and fair trade and the predictability of global market conditions. As 90% of global economic growth is expected to be generated outside Europe in the coming years, with more than 30 million jobs in the EU dependent on external trade, it is essential to preserve and improve our trade environment with stable, transparent, and fair-trade rules that work for businesses of all sizes.

The International Trade Committee ensured that the expectations of the chamber network were well represented in EU trade relations with third countries. A September letter from President Frieden to the European Commission's Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, emphasized the need to revitalise the EU's trade agenda for the remainder of the 2019-2024 term.

Other milestones included the EU-Africa Summit in February and President Frieden's meeting with US Under Secretary Jose W. Fernandez in November.

President Frieden and our committee chair, Ian Talbot, also met the EU Ambassador to the UK, João Vale de Almeida, to discuss issues relating to implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The effective representation of chamber interests in the unprecedented sanctions against Russia following the war in Ukraine was high on the committee's agenda in 2022, as well as liaison with the German Presidency ahead of the G7 Summit, input towards strengthening EU-US relations and the TTC, including on the recent challenges with the Inflation Reduction Act, and leading a chamber delegation on the World Trade Organization reform process at the 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva.

In addition, Eurochambres played an active part in the effective implementation of the existing trade agreements with South Korea and Vietnam, helping to steer their further development during Commission led visits to Seoul and Hanoi in September and November.



Related projects and services



AL-INVEST is the EU flagship programme for SME support and promotion in Latin America. The AL-INVEST Verde programme mobilises EU expertise and investment in support of building alliances with the private sector in Latin America. Via call for proposals, the programme co-finances innovative projects that promote sustainable low-carbon, resource efficient economic practices and are implemented by partnerships formed by at least by one European and one Latin American partner.



2022 OUTPUTS

OVERVIEW



**Latin America - EU
partnership
projects selected
with the first call
for proposals**

Eurochambres role: project partner
Duration: December 2021 – November 2025
Project management: Nicoletta Favaretto
Project budget: 31.250.000 €



The **Business Support to the EU-India Policy Dialogues** supports the implementation of the new EU strategy on India, which was adopted in December 2018. The project strives to increase business involvement in strategic areas of bilateral cooperation to reinforce the already strong partnership between the European Union and India. These key areas are derived from on-going policy dialogues between the EU and India, such as Environment, Energy, Climate, ICT and Urbanisation and hold relevant/real-time opportunities for EU businesses interested in entering the Indian market.



OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role:
project partner

Duration:
December 2019 – January 2022

Project management:
Joel Fernandes

Project budget: 3.000.000 €

The EU SME Centre is an EU-funded project by EISMEA and it aims to help SMEs get ready for the Chinese market. The project provides first-hand support services through an online library with over 200 market reports, confidential one-to-one consultation, offline and online training sessions, and advocacy support. The EU SME Centre has been dedicated to helping European SMEs do business with China for over a decade and continued to provide services during the Covid-19.

2022 OUTPUTS



OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

Duration:

September 2020 – June 2022

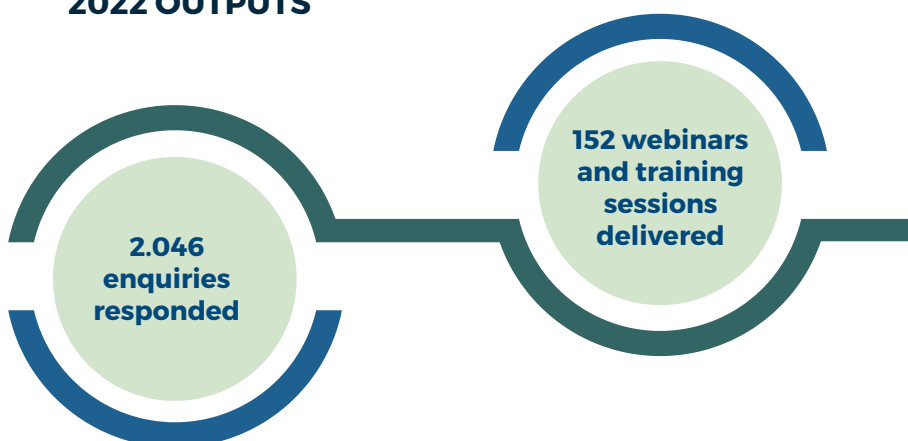
Project management:

Laura Velasco

Project budget: 1.333.253,17 €

The Latin America IP SME Helpdesk is an EU project that offers first-line IP assistance services for European/COSME SMEs that operate or intend to access the Latin American region and look to improve their global competitiveness. The project supports SMEs to both protect and enforce their Intellectual Property (IP) rights in or relating to Latin American countries, by providing free information and services, such as Helpline, IP training and an IP resource library.

2022 OUTPUTS



OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

Duration: September 2018 - December 2022

Project management: Nicoletta Favaretto

Project budget: 3.392.480,00 €

The India IP SME Helpdesk is an EU project that supports SMEs from the EU and COSME associated countries to both protect and enforce their Intellectual Property (IP) rights in or relating to India, by providing free information and services. Although India is signatory to many international agreements concerning IPR protection, there are still differences, between European and Indian IP laws in regards the specific protection, registration, or enforcement of IP rights.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

Duration: November 2020 – December 2022

Project management: Joel Fernandes

Project budget: 969.020 €

2022 OUTPUTS



NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENLARGEMENT

Playing an active role in the accession process and in strengthening trade and investment relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries

Committee Chair
Rifat Hisarcıkıloğlu

Eurochambres Vice-President
President of Union of Chambers
and Commodity Exchanges of
Türkiye

Eurochambres is a truly pan-European business organisation, with members from over forty countries, including candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as those from the Eastern Partnership. The war in Ukraine has given a new impetus to EU enlargement and Eurochambres strengthened the involvement of chambers in the accession process. Moreover, Eurochambres actively contributes to improve economic competitiveness, and the business and investment environment in the four regions (Western Balkans, Türkiye, Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean).

Eurochambres' March position on moving the Western Balkans closer to the EU advocated to set up a clear timeframe for the implementation of reforms leading towards the EU accession in the Western Balkans. We enhanced the capacity of chambers in the region by providing expertise in two academies on digitalization and green transition.

Our Neighbourhood and Enlargement Committee meeting in May was dedicated to the impact of the war in Ukraine on the business community. The chamber network highlighted to Commission representatives their different initiatives implemented at national, regional, and local level to support Ukraine.



"The war in Ukraine has shaken up the European Union's approach to enlargement. Ukraine's swift application to join the bloc has also rejuvenated the membership aspirations of other countries."



During the EU-Türkiye High-level Business Dialogue in November 2022, co-organised by TOBB, and with the presence of European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, Eurochambres President Luc Frieden stressed the importance of strong relations between Türkiye and the EU. The cooperation of both business communities is key to strengthening the dialogue between the EU and Türkiye on issues of common interest, including strengthening trade and investment relations, enhancing competitiveness and supporting the green and digital transition.



Furthermore, the role of the chambers in the EU enlargement process was highlighted in a December workshop with the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, in particular their role in helping businesses to comply with the EU acquis.

Related projects



Boosting sustainable economic development and supporting job creation is at the heart of EU's contribution to stabilising its neighbourhood. This implies helping SMEs to grow, attracting investments in new sectors, increasing, and promoting trade opportunities between the EU and the Eastern Partnership (EaP). The **EU4Business: Connecting Companies** project provides a strategic approach, targeting specific needs and opportunities of each of its five sectors (Wine, Bio-Organic Food, Textile, Tourism, and Creative Industries) from both the EU and EaP, allowing for business alliances among both sides.

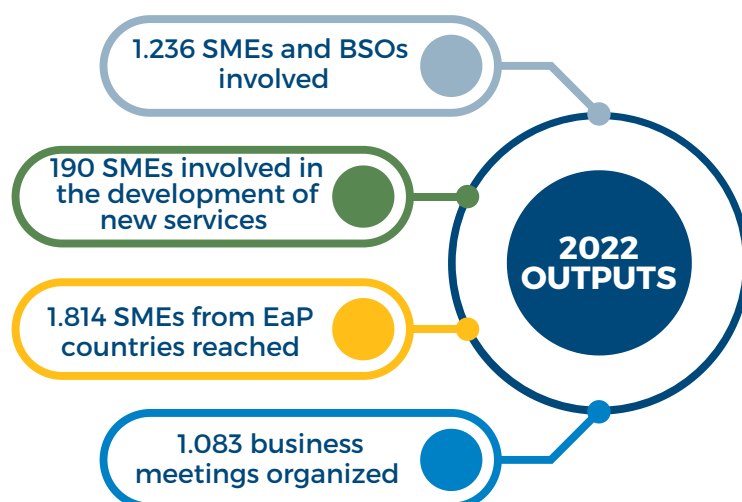
OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project leader

Duration: December 2019 – December 2023

Project management: Ana Sarateanu

Project budget: 6.840.000 €



The Turkey-EU Business Dialogue aims to strengthen mutual knowledge and understanding between Turkish chambers and their counterparts in the EU through dialogue by exchanging views and practices. During the implementation of the TEBD, chambers from both Turkey and the EU engaged in partnerships, dialogues, capacity building, and over 100 activities. Moreover, the 2022 EU-Turkey High Level Business Dialogue was organised in Istanbul, Türkiye with the participation of European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi, Minister of Trade Mehmet Mus, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruk Kaymakci and 22 Presidents of European and Turkish Business Support Organisations.

OVERVIEW

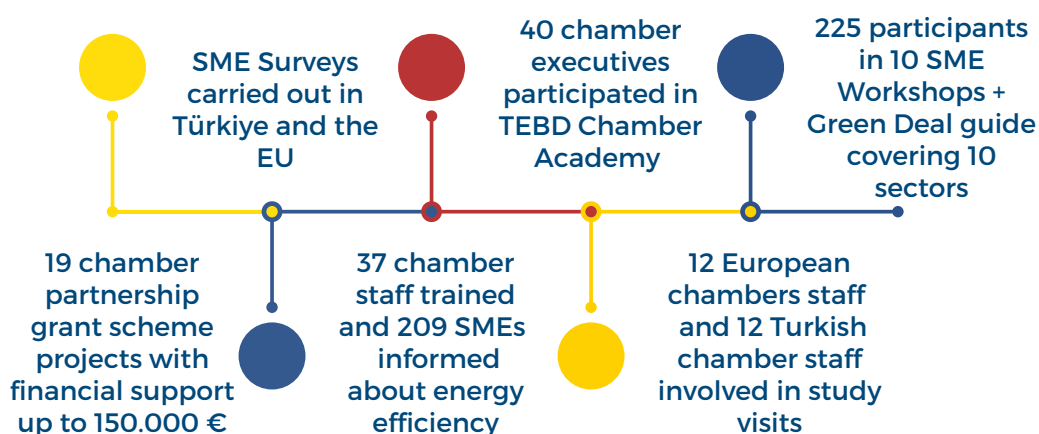
Eurochambres role: project leader

Duration: July 2017 – February 2023

Project management: Oya Ersöz

Project budget: 2.500.000 €

2022 OUTPUTS



SINGLE MARKET

Calling for structural changes to revive the Single Market

Committee Chair
Juho Romakkaniemi

CEO of Finland Chamber of
Commerce

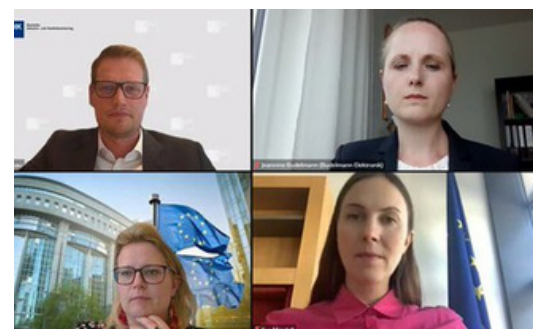
Eurochambres fully supports the von der Leyen Commission's commitment to further strengthening the single market and creating a real European level-playing field for businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive.

In this regard, Eurochambres' work during 2022 focused on the need to eliminate barriers affecting the single market, reduce market fragmentation and remove red tape including for cross-border operations. An industry statement produced in June 2022 by the Eurochambres and other business representatives set out crucial recommendations on how to deepen the single market and deliver tangible results for businesses.



Eurochambres Single Market Committee Chair, Juho Romakkaniemi, speaking during the European Parliament's high-level conference on the 30th anniversary of the single market, 27 October 2022.

Eurochambres also contribute actively to discussions on tackling Europe's current shortages of chips. Eurochambres' work in the European Commission's Industrial Forum task-force 1 further supported the efforts to identify strategic dependencies and vulnerabilities in key ecosystems such as Tourism, Renewable Energies and Digital.



The committee also worked towards the adoption of a functional, efficient, effective, and time-limited Single Market Emergency Instrument that allows for a swift response against a variety of unpredictable shocks and emergencies, while cautioning against overreach, complex reporting obligations, cumbersome approval procedures and punitive sanctions.

The Data Act was been another major digital policy development in 2022. Before and after publishing our position in November, we engaged with policy makers in order to make the proposal fulfil its potential in strengthening the data economy in Europe and make the proposed data sharing architecture work for European businesses.



The Data Governance Act was largely done and dusted early in the year, while files such as the European Chips Act, the eIDAS Regulation or the AI Act proposals became subject to intensified discussions in both the European Parliament and Council. Eurochambres sought to weigh in on the debates throughout 2022 and will keep doing so in 2023.

Related projects and services

Consumer Law → READY

Consumer Law Ready is an EU-wide consumer law training program for SMEs. It is EU project, implemented by Eurochambres and partners, which covers all aspects of SME trading and aims to update SMEs on important aspects of EU consumer law. Specialized training equips SMEs with the know-how to handle customer complaints, avoid costly litigation and improve overall customer service. This results in greater confidence in your business.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role:

project leader

Duration:

December 2019 - December 2022

Project management:

Greta Bilanzola & Laura Velasco

Project budget:

1.000.000 €

2022 OUTPUTS



SKILLS

Speeding up the green and digital transition and addressing ongoing skills shortages

Committee Chair
Martha Schultz

Eurochambres Vice President and
Vice-President of the Austrian
Federal Economic Chamber

Chambers of commerce and industry have a long history of offering vocational education and training. Over 2.5 million people are trained by the chamber network in a typical year. This demonstrates the business community's commitment to tackling socially and economically detrimental skills shortages across much of Europe .



The Skills Committee worked on the social and employment aspects of climate change. In addition to that, the committee prepared its position on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Year of Skills.



Eurochambres launched a flash survey “Green Skills in the eyes of European businesses” whereby it investigated the hurdles that companies face in implementing policies to speed up the green transition and dealing with skills shortages, while also highlighting the importance of investing in green skills.



Eurochambres Skills Committee Chair and Vice President Martha Schultz speaking to the plenary of the European Economic and Social Committee, 26-27 February 2022



Two working groups on migration policy were organised in response to the impact of the New Pact for Migration and Asylum on businesses. The chamber network shared best practices and discussed recent challenges related to attracting talent into the European labour market and supporting the integration of migrant workers into labour markets.

The European Partnership on Integration between the European Social and social and economic partners renewed their commitment to the integration of refugees and migrants into the labour market through a joint statement.

Eurochambres CEO Ben Butters with Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, and representatives of European social and economic partner organisations



Related projects and services



ARCHIPELAGO

an African-European partnership
for vocational training

project funded by the European Union

ARCHIPELAGO is an inclusive economic development programme funded by the EU under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). It addresses youth and vulnerable groups' employability through increasing their professional skills as well as enhancing employment opportunities. The principal approach of the action is the implementation of targeted partnership projects between European and African Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) in the 12 targeted countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad regions with the objective to provide labour market relevant TVET training.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

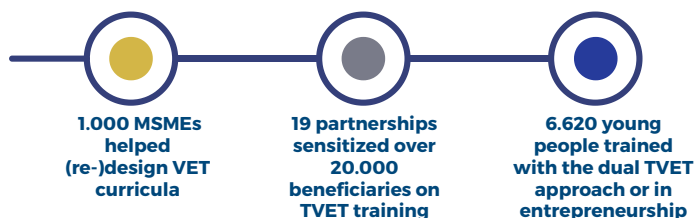
Duration: September 2018 - October 2023

Project management:

Birgit Arens & Nicoletta Favaretto

Project budget: 15.000.000 €

2022 OUTPUTS



EntreComp for Transition is a collaboration between 15 partners from 5 countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Türkiye) co-funded by the European Commission and supporting dual transition across the EU. Based on the results of the EntreComp Europe project, the main objective is to bridge the skills gap between the labor market and the education sector. This happens through learning paths, which would benefit the creation of new profitable business opportunities, which are based on a green transition profile.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project leader

Duration: June 2022 - May 2025

Project management: Greta Bilanzola

Project budget: 1.873.852 €

EntreComp Europe is about supporting actors in all sectors of the lifelong learning system to enhance the development, validation, and recognition of the entrepreneurship key competence across lifelong learning. EntreComp is a flexible reference framework designed to illustrate the competences that make up the entrepreneurship key competence, and to support and inspire actions to help develop this key competence in all areas of lifelong learning. The project is co-funded by the European Commission (COSME programme).

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project leader

Duration:

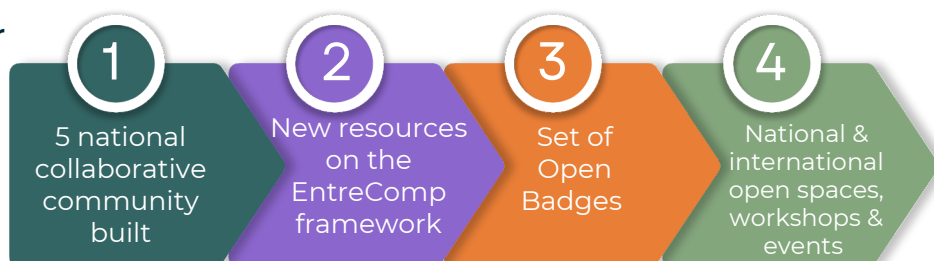
February 2020 – January 2023

Project management:

Greta Bilanzola

Project budget: 499. 993 €

2022 OUTPUTS



Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is an EU programme providing aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a business in Europe. New entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they stay and collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months. Eurochambres manages the Support Office of the programme on behalf of the European Commission, ensuring quality of business exchanges implemented by the network of 185 intermediary organisations, providing training, webinars and organising network meetings.

2022 OUTPUTS



OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role:
manages the support office of the programme

Duration:

May 2021 – April 2023

Project management:

Greta Bilanzola

Project budget: 710.000 €

The European Learning Experience Platform (EULEP) brings together 20 organisations from 8 countries to make continuous vocational education and training more attractive as part of lifelong learning. They will offer businesses new and tailor-made training modules that correspond to their skills needs in innovation-oriented subjects (artificial intelligence, virtual reality and social innovation), establish or reinforce knowledge triangles at regional and national level thanks to the triangulation business - VET provider - European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH), and embed VET in regional economic development strategies and reinforce its governance, putting it on a sustainable path.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project leader

Duration: June 2022 – May 2026

Project management: Birgit Arens

Project budget : 4.925.481 €



Migration of African Talents through Capacity building and Hiring (MATCH) is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund. It seeks to pilot a labour mobility scheme between four EU countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy) and two West African countries (Senegal and Nigeria). The project aims to raise awareness about the potential of market-responsive labour mobility schemes; and to develop knowledge sharing between public and private entities from the EU and Africa.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

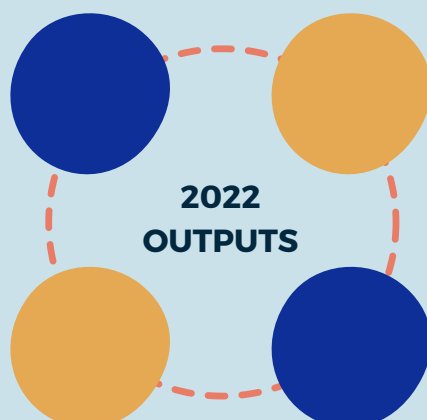
Project management: Birgit Arens

Duration: January 2020 – April 2023

Project budget: 1.999.600 €

Training, knowledge sharing and capacity building for African candidates as well as employers on the European side

Awareness raising of the private sector on labour migration from Africa



Matching of private sector vacancies in  with candidates from Nigeria and Senegal

Dissemination of lessons learned and good practices

SUSTAINABILITY

Driving the green transition and helping businesses navigate the energy crisis

Committee Chair
Vladimír Dlouhý

Eurochambres Deputy-President
and President of the Czech
Chamber of Commerce

The 2022 work of the Sustainability Committee centred on the major challenges of the energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine, as well as the finalisation of important files from the Fitfor55 package. To address effectively the most pressing needs and concerns of the business community in the context of the energy crisis, Eurochambres launched several coordinated initiatives.

The most important document related to the energy transition and Europe's strategic autonomy was the RePowerEU Plan, which sets out a series of measures to rapidly reduce dependence on fossil fuels from Russia, accelerate the environmental transition and at the same time increase the resilience of the EU-wide energy system.

Eurochambres proactively advocated on the emergency measures to tackle the energy crisis, such as the Save Gas for a Safe Winter package, the gas joint purchasing plan, the acceleration of the permitting procedures for certain renewable energy projects, or the EU framework to cap the price of gas in electricity generation. Accompanied by the President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Harald Mahrer, our Deputy President and Sustainability Committee Chair, Vladimír Dlouhý, participated in a working lunch meeting with European Energy Ministers in November (see photo below), where he set out the concerns of the business community and made concrete demands to ease the burden on companies.



The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation is a cornerstone of the Circular Economy Package. Eurochambres contributed to this file with a position at an early stage and will closely follow the developments around the new product categories and the Digital Product Passport.

A position was developed on the revision of the Energy Taxation Directive during the fourth quarter of 2022, followed by a workshop with the European Commission. During the COP27 in November 2022, Eurochambres organised an event at the ICC "Make Climate Action Everyone's Business" Forum. We also hosted an event on "Green Skills in the eyes of European Businesses" as part of the EU Green Week 2022.



Related projects and services



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

The EnergyEfficiency4SMEs project aims to enhance the skills of energy technicians within a company as well as to improve their know-how to access public incentives and private finance. The consortium is formed by 23 partners committed to support companies from 10 countries. The project will focus its activities in three sectors: accommodation and food service activities, manufacturing – agri-food and, manufacturing – metal work.

OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

Duration: November 2022 – October 2025

Project management: Joel Fernandes

Project budget: 1.841.420 €



The India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP) is an EU project implementing the Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. The overall objective of the project is to reinforce cooperation between EU and India on clean energy and climate change with a view to ensure a secure, clean, affordable, and reliable energy supply for all and to progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.



OVERVIEW

Eurochambres role: project partner

Duration: December 2018 – June 2022

Project management: Joel Fernandes

Project budget: 3.230.000 €

CONNECTIVITY

Chambers meet Chambers

Eurochambres launched a new initiative in January 2022, Chambers meet Chambers. Using an online platform developed exclusively for this purpose, local, regional, national and bilateral chamber representatives could fix brief appointments over the two days. 225 chamber representatives from 27 countries participated in 440 meetings and more than 8.000 minutes of video calls to discuss policy dossiers, projects, services, management, communication, governance and B2B opportunities.

The broad interest and participation of chambers in this initiative demonstrated the strong desire of the chamber network to connect and collaborate.



Communities of Interest (Cols)

Communities of Interest (Cols) bring together national, regional and local chambers to facilitate collaboration with a view of spreading effective activities across the network, notably through joint EU funded activities. The nine Cols launched in 2021 cover 10 Cols topics. A tenth Col was established in 2022, focusing on female entrepreneurship under the facilitation of that group, the Deputy Secretary of Bolzano Chamber, Luca Fillipi.



Connecting European Chambers

On 28 and 29 June, more than 160 colleagues from the Eurochambres network attended Connecting European Chambers, either onsite or virtually. The 7th edition of the event offered local, regional and national chambers the opportunity to learn about EU programmes and discover best practices. It helped chambers connect and take further steps in cooperation on EU projects, building on the network's strengths to deliver added value services to the business community. During these two days, chambers learned more about the Horizon Europe, LIFE and Erasmus+ programmes and engaged in discussions with EU officials, external experts and Eurochambres project managers about participation in EU-funded projects.



Eurochambres Women Network

Although women constitute 52% of the total European population, they represent only 34.4% of the EU self-employed and 30% of start-up entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurial potential is thus an under-exploited source of economic growth and job creation, that should be further developed. The Eurochambres Women Network (EWN) contributes to untapping this potential and to give a stronger voice to women entrepreneurs in Europe.

In May 2022, the "Empowering women entrepreneurs" event brought together women entrepreneurs from across Europe to consider changes that they need to apply to their business models in order to adapt to a fast developing business world, economic, digital, social and green transition.

In October, long-serving Chair of the EWN and Eurochambres Vice-President Martha Schultz handed the baton to the Secretary General of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, Marina Rožić, who will oversee the network's future activities and development.



Eurochambres Vice-President Martha Schultz, Eurochambres President, Luc Frieden and EWN Chair, Marina Rožić

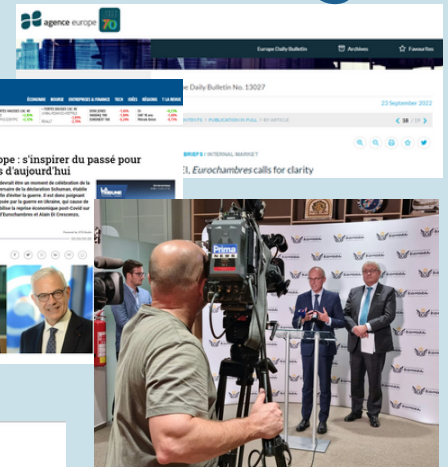


Eurochambres Women Network Chair, Marina Rožić

VISIBILITY



Media Coverage



Handelsblatt

KONJUNKTUR

Wirtschaftsverband: Wachstum in Eurozone wohl nur noch bei drei Prozent



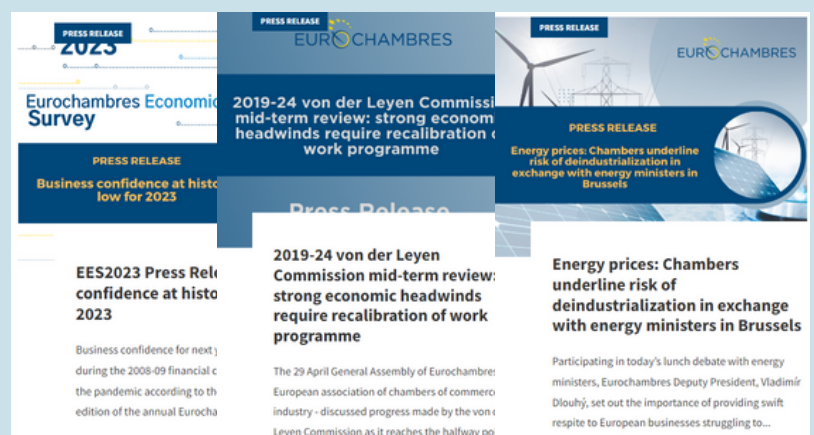
104K PROFILE VISITS

477 TWEETS ISSUED

276K IMPRESSIONS



10 policy events promoted



8 press releases issued

2022 DIARY HIGHLIGHTS

Starting his term as Eurochambres President in January, Luc Frieden embarked on an active itinerary of meetings and visits with EU policy-makers, as well as national government representatives from Europe and elsewhere.



After nearly two years of restricted contact and limited travel, it was a pleasure from early 2022 to be able to bring members of the chamber network together again for face-to-face meetings, even if covid-19 continued to have an occasional impact on our plans. A cocktail reception was held in April and meetings were hosted in Paris and Prague by CCI France and the Czech Chamber of Commerce respectively in connection with the 2022 EU Council Presidency semesters.



Mr Frieden also visited several members during the year to gauge the business mood and meet senior chamber representatives, entrepreneurs and national authorities. In September, Eurochambres' Affiliated and Correspondent Members met in Istanbul to discuss economic developments in their countries.



Sweden



Latvia



Switzerland



Poland



Affiliated and Correspondent Members

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Eurochambres Members

Full Members

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Austria | Austrian Federal Economic Chamber |
| Belgium | Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce |
| Bulgaria | Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Croatia | Croatian Chamber of Economy |
| Cyprus | Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Czech Republic | The Czech Chamber of Commerce |
| Estonia | Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Finland | Finland Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| France | CCI FRANCE |
| Germany | German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) |
| Greece | Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce |
| Hungary | Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Ireland | Chambers Ireland |
| Italy | Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture |
| Latvia | Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Lithuania | Association of Lithuanian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts |
| Luxembourg | Chamber of Commerce Luxembourg |
| Malta | The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry |
| Poland | Polish Chamber of Commerce |
| Portugal | Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Romania | The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania |
| Slovakia | Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Slovenia | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia |
| Spain | Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of Spain |
| Sweden | Sweden's Chambers of Commerce |

Affiliated Members

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Albania | Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania |
| Armenia | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Republic of Armenia |
| Azerbaijan | Republic of Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Belarus | Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Georgia | Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Kosovo | Kosovo Chamber of Commerce |
| Moldova | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova |
| Montenegro | Chamber of Economy of Montenegro |
| North Macedonia | Economic Chamber of North Macedonia |
| Norway | The Association of Norwegian Chambers of Commerce |
| Russia | The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation |
| Serbia | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia |
| Switzerland | Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Switzerland |
| Turkey | Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye |
| Ukraine | Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry |

Correspondent Members

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Andorra | The Andorra Chamber of Commerce |
| AIC Forum | Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce |
| Insuleur | Network of Insular Chambers of the EU |
| Israel | Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce |

PRESIDENCY

President



Luc Frieden
President of Chamber of Commerce of Luxembourg

Deputy Presidents



Vladimír Dlouhý
President of Czech
Chamber of Commerce



Ian Talbot
CEO of Chambers
Ireland



Stephan Mühler
President and CEO of
Chambers of Commerce
of Southern Sweden

Vice-Presidents



Martha Schultz
President of Austrian
Federal Economic
Chamber



Alain Di Crescenzo
President of CCI France



Wolfgang Grenke
Member of Board of
Association of German
Chambers of Commerce
and Industry



Michl Ebner
President of Chambers of
Commerce, Industry,
Handicrafts and
Agriculture of Bolzano



José Luis Bonet Ferrer
President of Spain Official
Chamber of Commerce,
Industry, Services and
Shipping



Marek Kłoczko
President and Director
General of Polish
Chamber of Commerce



Rifat Hisarciklioğlu
Union of Chambers and Commodity
Exchanges of Türkiye

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EU Members

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Luc Frieden | Luxembourg |
| Martha Schultz | Austria |
| Luc Luwel | Belgium |
| Tsvetan Simeonov | Bulgaria |
| Luka Burilovic | Croatia |
| Christodoulos Angastiniotis | Cyprus |
| Vladimir Dlouhý | Czech Republic |
| Mait Palts | Estonia |
| Juho Romakkaniemi | Finland |
| Alain Di Crescenzo | France |
| Wolfgang Grenke | Germany |
| Ioannis Masoutis | Greece |
| Laszlo Parragh | Hungary |
| Ian Talbot | Ireland |
| Michl Ebner | Italy |
| Aigars Rostovskis | Latvia |
| Giedre Razinskiene | Lithuania |
| John Huber | Malta |
| Marek Kloczko | Poland |
| Bruno Pinto Basto Bobone | Portugal |
| Mihai Daraban | Romania |
| Peter Mihok | Slovakia |
| Ales Cantarutti | Slovenia |
| Inmaculada Riera | Spain |
| Stephan Mühler | Sweden |

Affiliated Members

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Vjekoslav Vukovic | Bosnia & Herzegovina |
| Georgi Pertaia | Georgia |
| Marko Cadez | Serbia |
| Rifat Hisarciklioğlu | Turkey |
| Gennadiy Chyzhykov | Ukraine |

MEET THE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer



Ben Butters

Policy



Lina Konstantinopoulou
Policy Director



Daniel Romanchenko
Policy Advisor for Digitalisation



Dominic Boucsein
Head of International Trade Policy



Frederico Martins
Senior Policy Advisor for Single Market



Giacomo Fersini
Economic Policy Advisor



Florian Schmalz
Policy Advisor for Sustainability



Juliette Loppé
Senior Policy Advisor for Neighbourhood and Enlargement



Sara Eggers
Policy Intern

Project Management



Angela Ustarroz
Project Officer



Azucena Pérez Alonso
Project Officer



Asta Borin
Project Financial Officer



Birgit Arens
Senior Project Officer



Greta Bilanzola
Senior Project Officer



Gryte Kuliesiute
Project Officer



Ia Khodeli
Project Officer



Joel Fernandes
Project Officer



Laura Velasco
Senior Project Officer



Lucia Pizzato
Project Officer



Luca Borra
Financial Controller



Magdalena Badeva
Project Officer



Mattia Marino
Project Officer



Nicoletta Favaretto
Senior Project Officer



Oya Erşöz
Project Director

Communication and Events



Agatha Latorre
Communications Officer



Karen Albuquerque
Press and Communications Manager



Roxana Dediu
Events and Communication Officer

Support



Ana Sarateanu
Network Services Manager



Catherine Pham
Senior Legal Counsel



Geoffroy de Fays
IT Support



George Haralambiade
Legal Counsel



Giulia Rocchi
Member Relations Manager



Irina Padure
Internal Controller



Michel Botte
Senior Accountant



Rhimo Maimouni
Office Manager



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