

Ms Roxana Mînzatu
Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 06 February 2025

Subject: **Eurochambres supports your leadership in building up a Union of Skills**

Dear Executive Vice-President Mînzatu,

As the European umbrella organisation of the network of **chambers of commerce and industry, representing over 20 million businesses in nearly 40 countries**, we express our strong support for your leadership in building up a Union of Skills (UoS) and we trust that the planned initiatives within the UoS will strengthen and complement the well-established national vocational education systems that underpin Europe's economic success. The latest edition of the annual [Eurochambres Economic Survey](#) – published in November and based on responses from over 42.000 businesses – identified skills shortages and labour costs as the top two challenges for 2025. This major constraint on Europe's competitiveness and growth cannot be resolved entirely at EU level, but we are encouraged that the vision outlined in your mission letter and the political guidelines aligns closely with [our priorities](#) for the next legislative period.

As a key stakeholder in Europe's skills ecosystem, we are committed to contribute to the development of the UoS through our expertise and networks:

- We actively **shape and promote vocational education and training (VET)** as the cornerstone of a resilient workforce and support a European Strategy for VET including Higher VET as stated in the Osnabruck Declaration.
- We support **more effective investment in skills development**, especially in key industrial ecosystems, as outlined in the Pact for Skills. Through our networks, we can bridge skills gaps and maximise the impact of these investments.
- We advocate for **improving skills intelligence and forecasting** to align education and training with labour market needs. Chambers can play a central role in gathering and sharing local and sector-specific data.
- We recognise the **importance of legal migration and improved recognition of qualifications** to address labour and skills shortages, along with **higher mobility for apprentices and skilled workers**.
- We support embedding **entrepreneurial, green and digital skills into education**. Chambers can help design and deliver programmes aligned with business needs.

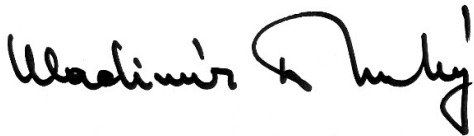
To ensure that the UoS becomes a collective and inclusive initiative, we propose **actively engaging chambers** in its design and implementation, recognising **our role as bridges between education providers and employers**.

We stand ready to work alongside the Commission to build an inclusive and future-ready UoS. This initiative has the potential not only equip Europe with the workforce it needs, but also strengthen its economic resilience and competitiveness.

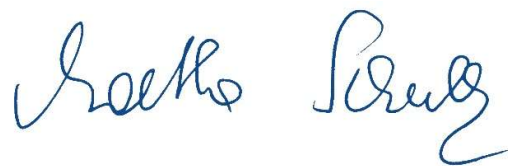
The Eurochambres secretariat is in contact with your cabinet regarding an appointment, which provides the opportunity to discuss these points further with you and explore how we can contribute. Given that this may not be possible before the adoption of the scheduled UoS in early March, our secretariat will also liaise with DG EMPL to provide more detailed input.

We look forward to meeting you soon to discuss the important topics related to skills from a business perspective and we want to emphasise our commitment as employers to cooperate to actively shape vocational education and training in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vladimír Dlouhý".

Vladimír Dlouhý,
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Martha Schultz".

Martha Schultz,
Vice President and Skills Committee Chair