



PROGRAMME

Last update: 05/10/2018

09:30-11.00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

11.00-11:50 OPENING

- **Antonio Tajani**, President of the European Parliament
- **Andrä Rupprechter**, Principal Advisor to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **Christoph Leitl**, President of EUROCHAMBRES

Master of Ceremony: **Arnaldo Abruzzini**, CEO, EUROCHAMBRES

11.50-12:50 FIRST SESSION - SKILLS

Scene-setter: **Martina Dlabajova** - MEP, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

A shortage of skilled staff was identified as the 2nd most significant challenge among the 50.000 respondents to the 2018 edition of the EUROCHAMBRES Economic Survey. This reflects the accelerating pace of technological, demographic and socio-economic disruption and the knock-on effect this has on skills profiles. Anticipating and preparing for such significant transformations is crucial to the EU's competitiveness. This challenge requires a multidimensional and effective response from policy-makers, educators, employers and the workforce. While education and training policy remains largely in the hands of member states, it also requires a coordinated EU-wide approach, promoting effective solutions, enhancing mobility, integrating migrants and tackling youth unemployment.

Debate with MEPEs

Voting session

Reaction from **Brando Benifei** - MEP, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

12.50-14.20 NETWORKING LUNCH

14:20-15:20 SECOND SESSION - TRADE

Scene-setter: **Bernd Lange** - MEP, Chair of the Committee on International Trade

The EU negotiates collective trade and investment agreements on behalf of its member states with third countries, Mercosur and Australia being notable current examples. Representing the interests of the world's largest single market affords the EU negotiators a strong bargaining position at the trade negotiation table with other major global economies. This is crucial to our competitiveness given that 90%



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of world growth will be created outside the EU in the next 10-15 years, with 30 million jobs already dependent on EU exports. To maximise Europe's economic potential, especially that of its 20 million plus SMEs, coherent EU policies and measures on international trade are needed. These should complement initiatives at member state level and within the private sector through a comprehensive and coordinated strategy of European Economic Diplomacy

Debate with MEPs

Voting session

Reaction from **Cecilia Malmström**, European Commissioner for Trade

15:20-16:20 **THIRD SESSION - FUTURE OF EUROPE**

Scene-setters:

- **Stephen Clark**, Director, Directorate for Liaison Offices, European Parliament (Special intervention by the European Parliament Communication Office concerning the importance of voting in the upcoming 2019 European elections)
- **Vladimir Dlouhy**, President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce

The European Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker, last year presented a white paper with five scenarios on how the EU could evolve, with the aim of starting a reflection on the future direction of Europe. These scenarios include just focussing on the single market, a multispeed Europe and deeper integration. It's clear that the outcome of the UK referendum was a major catalyst for this and the shock of the Brexit vote has seemingly strengthened support for the EU among the remaining member states. Opinions on the best path of course vary considerably. The debate is set to culminate at a summit of heads of state in Sibiu, Romania, in May 2019. EUROCHAMBRES has underlined the need for an EU that is fit for business, based on a solid single market and a stable, predictable economy, as reflected in its April 2018 'Declaration of Entrepreneurial Rights'.

Debate with MEPs

Voting session

Reaction from **Ann Mettler** - Head of the European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission & **Stephen Clark**

16:20-16:40 **CLOSING**

Intervention of members of Institutions

- **Michel Barnier**, Chief Negotiator of the Task force for the Application of Article 50 with the United Kingdom, European Commission
- **Christoph Leitl**, President of EUROCHAMBRES