



15 April 2020

## EUROCHAMBRES Declaration of European Solidarity and Recovery

**The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest crisis encountered since the EU project began. It is of course first and foremost a public health emergency, but the impact will reverberate across the continent's economy and society for many years to come.**

Containment remains the priority and our current focus is naturally on those closest to us. Notwithstanding this, pan-European cooperation is essential to our revival: we are confronted with a symmetric recession, so we need to work together to identify and pursue a coordinated response.

European integration was born out of crisis and its subsequent development has been based on the principles of collaboration and solidarity, in both good times and bad. We are now encountering the toughest of times and must remain resolute to these principles.

Half measures are not an option in responding to this unprecedented and damaging economic slowdown; we must put in place a robust, ambitious strategy and ensure the necessary financial resources for an extraordinary recovery effort.

Our economic recovery depends on the full engagement of all citizens, all stakeholders and all levels of governance across Europe. With this declaration, the Presidency of EUROCHAMBRES demonstrates the commitment of the Chamber network to cooperate with policy-makers and civil society to define and implement a plan for Europe's revival.

**Chambers of Commerce & Industry have never been closer to their members than they are now.** Based on this proximity to millions of European businesses across 43 countries, we are pleased to provide below our initial input for the forthcoming EU Recovery Roadmap and Action Plan. This is based on the need for a **coordinated European approach to revive the supply of goods and services, uphold free movement and stimulate demand.**

Christoph Leith

President EUROCHAMBRES, and all members of the EUROCHAMBRES Presidency:

- Vladimir Dlouhý, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Czech Republic
- Stephan Müchler, CEO of the South Sweden Chamber of Commerce / Sweden
- Ian Talbot, CEO of the Irish Chamber of Commerce
- José Luis Bonet Ferrer, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Spain
- Michl Ebner, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Bozen / Italy
- Wolfgang Grenke, Member of the Board of the German Chamber of Commerce
- Pierre Goguet, President of the French Chamber of Commerce
- M. Rifat Hisarciklioglu, President of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce
- Marek Kloczko, Vice President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce
- Constantine Michalos, President of the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce
- Marko Cadez, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia
- Juho Romakkaniemi, CEO of the Finnish Chamber of Commerce
- Aigars Rostovskis, President of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce
- Martha Schultz, Vice President of the Austrian Federal Chamber
- Gilbert Stimpflin, President of the Grand Est Chamber of Commerce / France
- Georgi Stoev, Member of the Board of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce

### **EUROCHAMBRES Presidency initial input for the EU Recovery Roadmap and Action Plan:**

- Swiftly reach agreement on the next **Multiannual Financial Framework** (MFF), tailoring and front-loading programmes to contribute to recovery related activities.
- Govern the rollout of recent large-scale EU **financial liquidity** measures in order to ensure that their impact reaches the many struggling SMEs across the continent that must not be overlooked.
- Build on the interconnected nature of Europe's economy and value chains revealed during this crisis, press forwards with the **further integration of the single market**.
- Take prompt action to **safeguard international trade in goods and services** and preserve global supply chains.
- Put in place a pan-European strategy for the **autonomous production and distribution of critical medical equipment** and supplies.
- Accelerate the transition to **digitalised procedures** (customs, tax, administrative/legal compliance, etc) by intensifying efforts to implement the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on e-Government.
- Embark on an unprecedented push to put in place **advanced digital infrastructure** across Europe and invest in digital capacity, cyber-security and networks.
- Ramp up the application of early warning tools defined in the Insolvency Directive to guarantee access to **effective support for businesses in crisis**, as needed now more than ever.
- **Capitalise on the Chamber network** to deliver services to Europe's businesses and to ensure that their needs are clearly understood and effectively met.