



# Recruitment Kit

**The European Parliament of Enterprises™ (EPE)** is organised by Eurochambres, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, once every two years. The first edition of the event was launched on 14 October 2008 on the occasion of Eurochambres' fiftieth anniversary.

On 14 November 2023, over 700 European entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to feel like members of the European Parliament for one day, sitting in the Brussels' Hemicycle, debating and voting on political resolutions, just like real MEPs would do!

## WHY?

The concept of the European Parliament of Enterprises™ (EPE) originated from the consideration that there is a democratic gap between the European institutions and the main actors of economic growth, entrepreneurs, and that consequently, European legislators do not sufficiently take into account entrepreneurs' concerns. On the other hand, businesses are largely unfamiliar with the role and functioning of the European Union and the significance that the institutions' decisions can have on their activities and results.

The EPE recreates a parliamentary session and gives the floor to European entrepreneurs. This highlights the "economic democracy" of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry through their representation and their structure.

## HOW IS THE EVENT ORGANISED?

EPE National Coordinators are appointed in all national Chambers of Eurochambres' member countries. The coordinators are in charge of recruiting the businesses, raising awareness and helping them to prepare for the debates. These businesses will subsequently form a "permanent sample" for Eurochambres to gather feedback and data on the situation of SMEs in Europe.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

This event aims to give the floor to entrepreneurs and to let decision-makers know what the business community expects from them in the future. Entrepreneurs will have a unique opportunity to debate with the high representatives of the EU Institutions and to provide them with direct bottom-up feedback on EU policies.

This exercise will enhance a better understanding by the EU legislators of the needs, concerns and challenges that entrepreneurs are daily confronted with. It will also allow the entrepreneurs to have a better understanding of the goals of the European Union and the role of each institution in the legislative process.



## WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

The EPE will be composed of the same number of entrepreneurs as the number of MEPs and will follow the same breakdown by country. Non-EU countries will also be involved in the event and will have the right to vote. And, at the same time, for the companies, being able to sit in such a prestigious setting is a way of discovering how real EU debates work and finding out that it is not always easy to reach an agreement! In addition to entrepreneurs, the event will host invitees from the EU Institutions, representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry and the international media.

## WHICH TOPICS?

During the EPE, entrepreneurs will debate and exercise their voting rights on three key EU issues: **Energy, International Trade and Skills**. These topics are the result of cross-comparison between the political priorities for 2023 put forward by the EU Institutions and Eurochambres.

At the end of each debate, a voting session will provide the possibility for MEPs to express their opinion. For each of these areas, representatives of the European Institutions will be invited to follow the debates and give immediate feedback to the companies. A true dialogue between the world of business and the world of institutions!

The results of the votes will be presented by Eurochambres to the relevant political interlocutors-representatives from all the EU Institutions. Indeed, a challenge for Eurochambres and the chamber network, but a very exciting one!

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF ENTERPRISES™?

- Making a difference and influencing the European decision-making process!
- Being part of a prestigious initiative which has obtained the support of Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament.
- Undertaking preparation on the topics for debate.
- Running in Brussels with other entrepreneurs for a day.
- Representing your country and meeting political representatives face-to-face to enhance mutual understanding.
- Attending your delegation's National Programme.
- Sitting in the hemicycle according to a protocol order.
- Discuss the concerns of enterprises on critical business topics.
- Listening and interacting with the EU officials.
- Voting on recommendations which will be presented to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- Following up on your votes (how the voting results will be used)
- Networking with MEPs and other entrepreneurs coming from 43 EU and non-EU countries.
- Being exposed to international media attention.
- Becoming part of the MEPs' community.



## NETWORKING LUNCH

A special networking lunch will be organised after the first session of the EPE. It will be attended both by the companies debating and voting during the EPE sessions, as well as by the representatives of the EU Institutions.

This relaxed and informal atmosphere will provide a unique networking opportunity for further discussions on specific business-related issues, one-on-ones with the policy-makers and with other entrepreneurs representing 43 European and non-European countries.

It will also serve as a forum to reinforce companies' proposals and ideas on how the EU Institutions should act in future policy decisions to help companies meet the needs, concerns and challenges that they are confronted with daily, and thus, together build a more business-friendly Europe.

**Looking forward to meeting you on 14 November 2023!**





## ABOUT EUROCHAMBRES

### WHO WE ARE

Established in 1958 as a direct response to the creation of the European Economic Community, Eurochambres acts as the eyes, ears and voice of the Chambers and business community.

Eurochambres represents over 20 million businesses in Europe through 45 members (43 national associations of chambers of commerce and industry and two transnational chamber organisations) and a European network of 1700 regional and local chambers. More than 93% of these businesses are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The chambers network's member businesses employ over 120 million people.

### OUR MISSION

Eurochambres forms one of the key pillars of business representation to the European institutions. Its mission is to represent, serve and promote European Chambers of Commerce and Industry by:

- strengthening the voice and position of the chamber network as significant, respected, valued influencers of EU affairs on all major economic issues
- developing the participation of the chamber network in EU funded projects of value to businesses
- enhancing the chamber network itself, delivering services to our members, developing pan European services for enterprises, and strengthening the chamber network throughout links and joint programmes

### OUR VISION

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.

### OUR SERVICES

Policy dialogue – based on regular consultation with its members, Eurochambres represents European business interests to the European institutions. The main goal is to influence policy developments to the benefit of chambers and their constituents, capitalizing on the network's strong connection with the grassroots economy and using evidence-based policy positions that reflect the needs of the European business community, particularly small & medium sized enterprises.

Projects - Eurochambres manages and coordinates various projects, to the benefit of both chambers and the wider business community. These EU co-funded projects relate to Eurochambres' policy priorities and thus cover a wide range of activities that are designed to help individual businesses and enhance Europe's competitiveness.

Visibility - the voice of the European business community and role of chambers is promoted through ongoing communication activities, a strong media presence and high-profile events. Eurochambres has two flagship initiatives: the Eurochambres Economic Forum and the European Parliament of Enterprises.

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