

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF ENTERPRISES®

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.

### WHY?

The concept of the "European Parliament of Enterprises" 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 give 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.

The European Parliament of Enterprises is held every two years.

### WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

751 entrepreneurs, or Members of the European Parliament of Enterprises (MEPEs), gather in the symbolic location of the Hemicycle of the European Parliament. The composition of the EPE reflects the number of Members of the European Parliament per member state.

### WHICH TOPICS?

Four fields of interest for debate will be identified after comparing the political priorities for 2014 put forward by the European Commission, the European Parliament, the EU Presidency and EUROCHAMBRES.

At the end of each debate, a voting session will provide the possibility for EPE members to express their opinion.

EUROCHAMBRES is working with experts of the relevant European Parliament Committees, as well as the General Directorates of the European Commission. Specific proposals will emerge from these exchanges and from discussions within the EUROCHAMBRES committees.