



## 3rd EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF ENTERPRISES

HEMICYCLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, Brussels

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014

### REASONS TO PARTICIPATE

On 16 October 2014, 751 entrepreneurs coming from 28 EU countries and 18 from non-EU members of EUROCHAMBRES 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!

**Context:** The concept of the "European Parliament of Enterprises" (EPE) originated from the consideration that there is a democratic gap between the EU institutions and the main actors of the economic growth which are the entrepreneurs. EU legislators do not take sufficiently into account the entrepreneurs' concerns. On the other hand, the role and functioning of the European Union is insufficiently known.

**Aims:** The aim of this event is to give the floor to entrepreneurs, the real actors of economic growth in Europe, and to let decision-makers know – through the company's own voice – 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 a direct bottom up feed back 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 of the role of each institution in the legislative process.

**Participants:** The EPE will be composed of the same number of entrepreneurs as the number of MEPs and will follow the same breakdown by country. 751 entrepreneurs from EU countries will constitute the Members of the EPE and will gather in the hemicycle of the European Parliament, which is per se a symbol of democracy and participation. 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 find out that it not always easy to reach an agreement!

Non-EU countries will also be involved in the event and will have the right to vote this time. Candidate countries belong to a different membership category and will therefore be granted more seats than other non-EU members.

In addition to entrepreneurs, the event will host invitees from the EU Institutions, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and the international media.

**Topics:** During the EPE entrepreneurs will debate and exercise their voting rights on the four key EU issues: **Internationalisation, Skills, Finance and Energy**. These topics are the result of 'cross-comparison' between the political priorities put forward by the EU Institutions and EUROCHAMBRES. For each of these areas, a representative of the European Commission and of the European Parliament 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 its network of Chambers, but a very exciting one!**