EUROCHAMBRES CONGRESS 2026 VALENCIA

Eurochambres Congress 2026

28 - 29 September | Valencia, Spain

Innovation, cooperation and growth for Europe



DELEGATE AGENDA









CO-ORGANISED BY

EUROCHAMBRES | Cámara Valencia

SUPPORTED BY

Cámara de Comercio de España

Monday, 28 September

Cámara Valencia

10:00h - 12:00h **Eurochambres Board of Directors**
(Eurochambres Board of Directors members only)

Lanzadera

12:30h - 13:30h **Guided visit to Marina de Empresas Valencia's entrepreneurship hub**
(Brunch included)

◉ Meeting point: Palau de la Música – 12:00h

Palau de la Música

15:00h - 15:30h **Arrival and accreditation of participants**

15:30h - 16:00h **Official Opening of the Eurochambres Congress**

- ***José Luis Bonet,*** *President of Cámara España*
- ***Vladimír Dlouhý,*** *Eurochambres President*
- ***Arcadi España****, Minister of Finance of Spain.*

16:00h - 16:45h **Plenary session | Strengthening competitiveness through the single market**

Thirty years on from its creation, the single market remains Europe's most powerful economic lever, yet its potential remains unfulfilled. What began as a bold vision to eliminate borders and spur integration is increasingly bogged down by internal fragmentation and shifting political priorities.

Focusing on the gap between ambition and delivery, the session will address stalled progress across measurable KPIs (e.g. trade integration in goods and services), persistent governance bottlenecks, changing political priorities, and a loss of strategic focus. Enrico Letta will also explore necessary structural reforms, namely across capital, services, and R&D&I, to overcome internal fragmentation, rebuild momentum, and reinforce Europe's global competitiveness.

- ***Enrico Letta,*** *Prime Minister of Italy 2013-2014. Dean of the IE School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs at IE University in Madrid*

16:45h - 17:30h **Plenary session | Electrification: the key to Europe's Competitiveness and security**

Recent energy shocks have served as a stark reminder that Europe's reliance on energy imports remains an Achilles' heel for its economic competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive industries. Electrification offers an opportunity to strengthen Europe's energy security and competitiveness while advancing decarbonisation, but practical barriers, such as lengthy permitting procedures, insufficient grid capacity and investment gaps, continue to hamper progress.

This session will examine how Europe can accelerate the electrification of its economy while maintaining security of supply and ensuring affordability. It will explore the investment needed in generation, grids, storage and flexibility, as well as how stronger cooperation between member states can deliver a more integrated and resilient European electricity system.

- ***Ignacio Sánchez Galán,*** *Executive President of Iberdrola*

17:30h - 18:30h

Panel session | **What does the geopolitical context mean for chambers of commerce and industry?**

For centuries, chambers have helped their member companies navigate a range of challenges, ranging from political upheaval, war, or natural disaster to the twin transition or administrative burdens.

European businesses currently find themselves confronted with a complex combination of unfavourable conditions linked to the volatile geopolitical context.

This context is characterised by Russia's unprovoked aggression towards Ukraine, heightened tensions in the Middle East, Transatlantic trade uncertainty, a soaring trade imbalance with China and a multilateral trading order that is under severe strain.

The European response is slow, confused and disjointed, undermined by short-term political expediency at national level and complex, unwieldy EU decision making procedures.

The situation doesn't impact internationally active businesses only, it impacts all of them, regardless of size or sector.

What does this all mean for chambers of commerce and industry? How can they support their member businesses in this context? and, in an increasingly digitalised society and a fast-evolving economy, do they want these services delivered to them differently?

- ***Isabel Riaño**, Director-General for Competitiveness and Trade, Council of the EU*
- ***Julian Kassum,** Deputy Secretary General - Network and a member of the executive committee of the International Chamber of Commerce*
- ***Ian Talbot**, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland*

18:30h - 18:45h

Summary Key Points

- ***Jennifer Baker,** Master of Ceremonies*

Hotel SH Valencia Palace

20:00h - 22:00h

Welcome cocktail

(Included for Delegates and Guest Pass holders)

Tuesday, 29 September

📍 *Palau de la Música*

09:15h - 09:45h **Arrival and Accreditation of participants** | **Welcome coffee and networking**

09:30h - 09:45h **Opening remarks – Day 2**

- ***Amparo López,*** *Secretary of State for Trade, Government of Spain*

09:45h - 10:45h **Panel session** | **The impact of AI on the economy and chamber services**

This panel will explore how AI is reshaping productivity, competitiveness and business transformation across Europe. Drawing on evidence that AI adoption remains uneven across countries, sectors and firm sizes, while offering significant productivity gains when effectively integrated into business processes, the discussion will bring together perspectives from a European chamber of commerce, the OECD and a digital industry association. Speakers will examine the key drivers of adoption, barriers SMEs are facing, and the policy and business actions needed to accelerate Europe's AI transition.

- ***Raquel Jorge Ricart,*** *Director of European Affairs, Adigital*
- ***Endre Molnár,*** *Research Director of Institute for Economic and Enterprise Research*
- ***Lucía Cusmano****, Head of the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD*
- ***Guido Bolatto****, Secretary General, Torino Chamber of commerce*

10:45h - 11:30h **Coffee break**

11:30h - 12:30h **Parallel thematic sessions – Part 1: expert perspectives**

Participants will choose one of three thematic itineraries, which will guide their discussions throughout the day. Each itinerary opens with a moderated conversation featuring two expert speakers who will share insights on the latest policy developments, emerging trends and strategic challenges shaping the topic.

- **Itinerary 1: Sustainable competitiveness**

. The green transition remains a key pillar of Europe's competitiveness and economic resilience. Yet despite recent efforts to simplify legislation, many businesses continue to experience the transition as a source of higher costs, more complex rules and fewer resources available for investment and innovation. This session will explore how Europe can reconcile sustainability with industrial competitiveness and how to turn compliance into a competitive advantage. Bringing together policy experts and the chamber network, the discussion will examine the obstacles businesses face and which policies and support measures are needed to deliver a more business-friendly transition.

- ***María Antonia Izquierdo Caballero*** *- Project Officer in the Circular Economy and Sustainable Industry Unit, Joint Research Centre*
- ***Georg Riekeles,*** *Associate Director and Head of Europe's Political Economy Programme*

11:30h - 12:30h

Parallel thematic sessions – Part 1: expert perspectives

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- Itinerary 2: International Trade

It remains important for European competitiveness that businesses are aware of the opportunities and support they have in tapping into the world's leading growth centres. At the same time, the unprecedented geopolitical volatility makes it essential that companies mitigate risks and public administrations ensure a trading environment that addresses unfair competition that increasingly undermines the level playing field for businesses both at home and abroad.

The session will therefore explore what instruments companies have at their disposal at regional, national level and EU level to optimise their competitive position in key global markets, from the United States, to Latin America, Africa and South East Asia, and how chambers can continue to be frontrunners in helping our business succeed globally.

- ***Sofía Muñoz**, Director of Resources, Information and Policy Coordination, DG TRADE, European Commission*
- ***Jaime Montalvo**, International Director at Cámara de España*

- Itinerary 3: Talent and training

Europe's talent challenge is becoming one of the defining competitiveness issues of the coming decades. Demographic change, technological transformation (including AI) and evolving skills needs are reshaping labour markets, while labour and skills shortages increasingly constrain business growth and innovation.

This session will explore how Europe can build the skills needed for the future economy through vocational education and training, lifelong learning and stronger skills ecosystems. Bringing together European institutions and the chamber network, the discussion will examine how businesses, policymakers and chambers can work together to attract, develop and retain talent.

- ***Jasper Van Loo,** Department coordinator for skills and labour market, Cedefop*
- ***Eva Revilla-Peñaranda,** Team Leader responsible for Skills for Competitiveness, DG EMPL, European Commission*

12:30h - 14:00h

Lunch

14:00h - 15:00h **Parallel thematic sessions – Part 2: collaborative workshops**

Building on the discussions from the first session, participants will remain in their chosen thematic itinerary to explore how chambers can translate strategic challenges into concrete action. Through best practice presentations, peer exchange and facilitated discussions, the workshop will focus on practical approaches, innovative solutions and lessons learned from across the chamber network.

- Itinerary 1: Sustainable competitiveness

- ***Nuria Ros Navarro,*** *Secretary General of the Cámara de Comercio de Teruel*
- ***Stina Wikberg,*** *Director Self-regulation and Sustainability, Finland Chamber of Commerce*

- Itinerary 2: International Trade

- ***Katrīna Zariņa,*** *CEO, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*
- ***Luz Martínez,*** *International Area Director, Cámara Valencia*
- ***Gennadiy Chyzhykov,*** *President, Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

- Itinerary 3: Talent and training

- ***Cristina Vicente,*** *Director of the Training Department, Cámara Valencia*
- ***Sarah Mellouet,*** *EU Policies Coordinator, Chamber of Commerce of Luxembourg*
- ***Marina Rožić,*** *Vice-president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy*

15:00h - 15:30h **Coffee break**

15:30h - 16:15h **Plenary session** | **Rethinking the chamber business model**

The business environment is changing and chambers are adapting too. This session will explore how chambers can continue to create value for businesses while developing sustainable and future-oriented business models. Drawing on the experience of two chamber leaders, the discussion will look at membership, services, revenues and the evolving expectations of businesses, while considering how chambers can remain relevant and financially resilient in the years ahead.

- ***Karolina Opielewicz,*** *Director General, Polish Chamber of Commerce*
- ***Mustafa Bayburtlu,*** *Deputy Secretary General of TOBB*

16:15h - 17:15h

Plenary session | **Securing Europe's industrial revival**

Two years after the presentation of the Draghi Report, Europe's industrial base continues on a downward trend, underlining the scale of its competitiveness challenge. High energy costs, unfair competition and strategic dependencies are among the key factors weighing on European businesses, particularly SMEs.

This plenary session will examine the strategic conditions Europe must secure to reverse this trend. Bringing together European and international policy perspectives, the discussion will explore how to strengthen Europe's industrial base, reduce dependencies and respond to market distortions, as well as identify support measures businesses need to invest, innovate and grow.

- ***Román Arjona,*** *Chief Economist, DG GROW, European Commission*
- ***Lucía Cusmano****, Head of the SMEs and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD*

17:15h - 17:30h

Summary Key Points

- ***Jennifer Baker,*** *Master of Ceremonies*

17:30h – 17:45h

Closing of the congress.

◉ Meeting point: Palau de la Música – 19:00h

Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias

19:00h - 20:00h

Guided tour of the port and the City of Arts and Sciences
(Included for Delegates and Guest Pass holders)

L'Hemisfèric

20:00h - 23:00h

Gala dinner with an exclusive concert
(Included for Delegates and Guest Pass holders)

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