



Position Paper

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EUROCHAMBRES' position on the Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy

EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry support the current 2030 targets as well as the goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Mobilising private investment is a key factor to create sustainable growth, jobs and prosperity. Companies need to be enabled to actively contribute to and take part in the transition to a sustainable economy by a clear and coherent legislative framework, support measures and incentives, including sufficient access to finance.

All technologies that can contribute to greenhouse gas emissions reduction must be taken into account. Investments in "Transition Activities" and "Enabling Activities" make a significant contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the achievement of climate targets and should therefore not be excluded from sustainability ratings ex-ante. EU initiatives in the field of sustainable finance should make it easier for companies to access finance for investments in climate protection and the energy transition. In addition, sectors that produce raw materials or intermediates that are required to manufacture products for climate and environmental protection must not suffer any disadvantages. Against this background, it would be irresponsible to classify entire sectors as non-sustainable per se, since their access to finance would be significantly limited or even prevented.

The transformation of the economy towards more sustainability will be cost-intensive and will take several decades. Any effort to be more sustainable must be affordable. To this end, incentives have to be created to advance a transformation towards sustainable products and economic activities. The financial regulatory framework has to be stable and reliable and consistent with other legislative measures in order to guarantee medium to long term plannability for businesses.

Innovative companies are particularly dependent on financing via the capital market (private equity, stock exchanges, etc.). It is important to promote the framework conditions for investments in key technologies and innovations and to make them more attractive.

The regulation must also be designed in such a way that the bureaucratic effort for the companies concerned is limited to the necessary minimum. This applies in particular to SMEs that must not be overwhelmed by the necessary disclosure of sustainability data. Proportionality must be preserved and exemptions for SMEs from disclosure requirements must be created.

It is imperative that further measures in the area of sustainable finance be specified in a transparent manner and in close coordination with the real economy in the ordinary legislative process. In particular it must be ensured that the real economy is duly represented at the Sustainable Finance Platform that helps the Commission in the elaboration of the technical screening criteria as stipulated in the Taxonomy Regulation. In addition, national gold plating of sustainability standards in finance must be avoided.

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 93% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a European network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.

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