

Declaration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

“Whether you are an optimist or a pessimist is unimportant, it’s important to be determined to the cause!” – Robert Schuman

60 years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome, in a Europe, that has to prepare itself for the upcoming Brexit, Robert Schuman’s message – of one of Europe’s founding fathers – is more relevant than ever. After all, where would we stand today without the free movement of goods, people and capital? Without a Single Market? Without the Euro? Without the exchange program “Erasmus”? And without seven decades of peace and stability?

We, the presidents of the European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, representatives of businesses in Europe, express our support for the most important principles of the European project. Because the goal of “economic and social progress”, that is called for in the European Economic Community’s founding act, has to be pushed forward.

From our perspective, the Single Market is one of the greatest achievements of the European Union. It functions as a lever for growth and prosperity in Europe. Based on it, our community has become an important economic power in international trade. Thus, more than three quarters of the companies that were gathered last autumn in the plenary hall of the European Parliament in Brussels as part of EUROCHAMBRES, asked for the completion and deepening of the internal market.

Furthermore, economic exchange contributes to the mutual understanding of cultures and nations. For over seventy years, this European peace project has been a success. With respect to the increasing risks due to international terrorism and the political insecurity surrounding us, we Europeans have to stand together in solidarity instead of moving apart and giving in to nationalism.

“Europe” or rather the European Union is not self-evident. It is a project that we created. As entrepreneurs we contribute to job creation. We are the driving forces behind the European economy. The European Union was developed together with us entrepreneurs and is therefore interested in its possible improvements and in a more simplified mutual exchange.

In order for an extensive European integration to work, the implementation of the Digital Single market, the realization of the Energy Union, the elimination of tax barriers as well as topics like employment and vocational training have to become a top priority.

Our support for the fulfilment of these issues proves our strong determination to get involved in the further development of the European Union. It is up to us, to make our voices heard and make concrete suggestions on how to shape our Community according to our interests. It is also up to us, to form a project out of the European project on which we can continue to be proud of!

We as business representatives have thereby the task to facilitate the communication between European and national decision-makers and our businesses and to ensure that the European Union simplifies the life of companies rather than making it more complicated. Together we can achieve this goal!



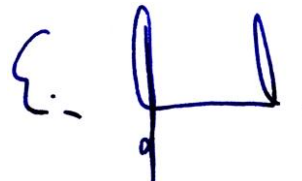
René Branders
President, Belgian Chambers



Pierre Goguet
President, CCI France



Michel Wurth
President, Chambre de
Commerce Luxembourg



Eric Schweitzer
President, DIHK



Ivan Lo Bello
President, Unioncamere