



XI Round Table

Regions and Chambers: Financing the innovation of SMEs

Brussels, October 7 2008

**Committee of the Regions
Room JDE 6.2**



Foreword

Unioncamere and the Conference of Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, in collaboration with the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EUROCHAMBRES) and with the support of the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, organize in Brussels, on Tuesday October 7 2008, the XI Round Table entitled:

REGIONS AND CHAMBERS: FINANCING THE INNOVATION OF SMEs

The Round Table takes place, for the third year, in the framework of the official programme of the **OPEN DAYS 2008** ("*Regions and cities in a challenging world*"), the traditional autumn event promoted by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission (Directorate General for Regional Policy) which gathers in Brussels not only European regions and cities, but also other relevant institution and economic actors.

In a global and highly competitive economy, the key factor for those SMEs which want to stay competitive and fully exploit the possibilities provided by markets (the European Single Market *in primis*), is undoubtedly innovation. This means "producing, assimilating and taking successfully advantage of the changes in the economic and social sectors". Enterprises are at the heart of the innovation process. Therefore, investing in the capacity of introducing something new and winning (an idea, a product, a management system) is the challenge that political and economic actors – also thanks to the support of the financial intermediaries and the European Institutions - have to cope with through effective instruments.

The program of the 2008 Round Table will focus on sharing and comparing "best practices" that both Italian and European Regions and Chambers of Commerce have put in place with a view to financing the development of enterprises and their territories.

09:30 OPENING SPEECHES

Mr. Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions

Mr. Pasquale Lamorte, President of the Unioncamere Observatory on Institutions Decentralization and Subsidiarity, and President of Potenza Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Renato Viale, Vice-President of Unioncamere and President of Alessandria Chamber of Commerce

10:00 PANEL

Mr. Riccardo Perissich, Former Director General responsible for the internal market at the European Commission.

Mr. Michele Pasca Raymondo Deputy Director General for Convergence, Competitiveness and Cross-border programmes, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

Mr. Gennaro Ramazio, Responsible “Local Authorities”, European Bank of Investments (EIB)

Mr. Per-Ove Engelbrecht, Head of Unit "Financing Innovation and SMEs", DG Enterprises and Industry, European Commission

Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES

Mr. Fernando Gómez Avilés-Casco, Vice-President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce High Council

Mr. Ian McCoull, Director Innovation and Commercialization Scottish Enterprise’s Team

Mr. Jean-Paul Mauduy, President of the Rhone-Alpes Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Massimo Busuoli, Director of ENEA-EU Liaison Office (Italian National Agency for the New Technologies, Energy and the Environment)

Mr. Franco Pizzetti, Full Professor of constitutional law at Turin University, President of the Italian Data Protection Authority.

12:30 CONCLUSIONS

Mr. Flavio Delbono, Vice-President of Emilia Romagna Region representing the Conference of the Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces

Mr. Luca Mantellassi, Vice-President of EUROCHAMBRES and President of Florence Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Transport

Round Table Moderator: **Thomas Miglierina**, RTSI correspondent in Brussels