Chambers of Commerce International Research Group
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With the support of:

5th Annual Scientific Conference – Chambers of Commerce

ESCI-UPF

19 & 20 November 2026

DAY 1 | Thursday, 19 November 2026

TIME	ORDER OF EVENTS & SPEAKERS
9.00 - 9.30	Opening of the conference - Institutional welcome **Prof. Albert Carreras,** Director of ESCI-UPF, Spain **Prof. Tomasz Dorożyński**, Head of Institute of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Lodz, Poland **Piotr Marciniak**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Department of Competition Law, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland **Prof. Iván Medina,** Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science, Universitat de València, Spain
9.30 - 9.55	**Ramon Alberich i Ferrer,** President of the Sabadell Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Consell General de Cambres, Spain
1ST SESSION	**RETHINKING CHAMBERS: INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY, SELF-GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE** Moderator: Prof. Iván Medina
10.00 - 10.20	*Resilience as self-governance at arm's length from the state. The case of German chambers of craft.* **Prof. Dr. Detlef Sack,** Department of "Democratic Theory and Government System Research", Head of the Institute for Democracy and Participation Research (IDPF), Institute of Political Science, Bergische University Wuppertal, Germany
10.20 - 10.40	*Rethinking chambers of commerce - institutional platform, not association.* **Prof. Péter Krisztián Zachar (Ph.D., habil.)**, Associate Professor, Vice-Dean for International Affairs, Head of Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary **Piotr Marciniak**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Department of Competition Law, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
10.40 - 11.00	Discussion

2ND SESSION	**CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN A CHANGING GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPE: REPRESENTATION, TRANSFORMATION AND COOPERATION**
	Moderator: Prof. Péter Krisztián Zachar
11.30 - 11.50	*Quo vadis Chambers of Commerce? Reflections on the Need to Redefine Their Role.* **Ulrich E. Zellenberg,** Ph.D., Deputy Head of Department, Organisation and Internal Legal Affairs of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Austria
11.50 - 12.10	*Who Represents Business Interests in Spain? An Analysis of Access by Companies and Business Associations to the Central Government (2012–2025)* **Prof. Iván Medina,** Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science, Universitat de València, Spain **Prof. Joan Pere Plaza,** Associate Professor, ESCI-UPF, Spain
12.10 -12.30	*Models of Cooperation Between Local Governments and Chambers of Commerce and Industry (The Examples of France and Poland)* **Katarzyna Walkowiak,** Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
12.30 - 12.50	*AI tools in scientific research of chambers of commerce - practical examples* **Piotr Marciniak**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Department of Competition Law, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences
12.50 - 13.30	Discussion
3RD SESSION	**COMPANIES AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE: A NEW HORIZON FOR COLLECTIVE BUSINESS ACTION AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**
	Moderator: Piotr Marciniak, Ph.D.
14.30 - 14.50	*Resilience or decline? The evolution of membership in employers' organisations in Southern Europe* **Prof. Marcial Sánchez-Mosquera,** Facultad de Ciencias del Trabajo, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
14.50 - 15.10	*What Should a Chamber's Levy Pay For? Financing Rules and the Knowledge Function of Chambers of Commerce.* **Prof. José Miguel Aliaga,** Associate Professor, ESCI-UPF, Spain
15.10 - 15.30	*The Organisational Adaptation of Employers' Associations in Southern Europe** **Prof. Iván Medina,** Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science, Universitat de València, Spain **Prof. Rosa Nonell,** Department of Political Economy, University of Barcelona, Spain
15.30 - 15.50	Discussion

DAY 2 | Friday, 20 November 2026

TIME	ORDER OF EVENTS & SPEAKERS
4TH SESSION	**FREE RESEARCHERS' SESSION - BEYOND BUSINESS REPRESENTATION: SERVICES, SUPPORT, INNOVATION, INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND MARKET PROTECTION** Moderator: Piotr Marciniak, Ph.D.
9.00 - 9.20	*Whose SME Mandate? Trade Credit and Representative Authority in EU Late-Payment Reform* **Qinlei Wang,** King's College London, United Kingdom
9.20 - 9.40	*Who Pays, Who Checks? Oversight Rights and Institutional Design in Chamber-Support Organisations* **Alena Klimuk,** Independent Researcher, Poland
9.40 - 10.00	*Architects of Industrial Resilience: A New Governance Model for Chambers of Commerce in Technological Innovation, Sustainable Trade and Evidence-Based Policymaking* **Begüm Önal,** Ph.D., Founder & Principal Consultant at B-NL Academy & Consultancy, Turkey
10.00 - 10.20	*Litigating for the market – chambers of commerce as collective guardians of open public* **Mateusz Brzeziński,** Ph.D., Independent Researcher, Poland
10.20 - 10.40	Discussion

5TH SESSION	**BUSINESSES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE - A COMPARATIVE APPROACH** Moderator: Prof. Tomasz Dorożyński
11.10 - 11.30	*Building Business Resilience in Times of Uncertainty: Innovation, Sustainability and the Role of Chambers of Commerce* **Prof. Grațiela-Georgiana Noja (Ph.D., habil.)**, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, West University of Timisoara, Romania
11.30 - 11.50	*Redefining Influence: The CEOE and Its Relations with Political Power in Spain during the Consolidation of Democracy* **Prof. Guillermo García Crespo,** Departamento de Humanidades, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
11.50 - 12.10	*Chambers of Commerce as Enablers of SME Digital Transformation: Lessons from India's UPI Revolution* **Prof. Amandeep Singh,** Dean BBA Fintech and AI Program, Chitkara Business School, India
12.10 - 12.30	*How Multinational Enterprises Build Local Embeddedness: Subsidiary Strategies and the Role of Business Environment Organisations - A Comparative Multiple-Case Study** **Prof. Tomasz Dorożyński**, Head of Institute of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Lodz **Xuesong Wang**, PhD Candidate, College of Business Administration, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
12.30 - 12.50	Discussion

6TH SESSION	**JUNIOR RESEARCHERS SESSION** Moderator: Prof. Joan Pere Plaza, ESCI-UPF
13.40 - 13.50	*Chambers of Commerce as Intermediaries in EU Economic Security Policy: Public-Private Cooperation under NIS2 and CER* **Bartosz Stanek,** MA student, Jagiellonian University, Poland
13.50 - 14.00	*How Chambers of Commerce Can Strengthen Innovation Ecosystems: Evidence from Poland, the Baltic States, Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia* **Jonas Pupius**, Ph.D. Candidate, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
14.00 - 14.10	*Chambers of Commerce and Institutional Responsiveness to Energy Disruptions (2022–2023): Lessons for Egypt* **Mohamed Aboghadeer,** Independent Researcher, Egypt
14.10 - 14.20	*Brokers on Two Fronts: How Chambers of Commerce Advocate Toward EU Institutions and Chinese Authorities Under Critical Mineral Export Controls** **Ali Afzaal Gondal,** MA Student, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary **Hafiz Hassan,** MA Student, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary
14.20 - 14.30	*Mapping institutional relations: Cooperation and competition among international Chambers of Commerce in Spain* **Carmen Mesia,** Business developer intern, Alumni ESCI-UPF, Spain
14.30 - 14.40	*Spanish Chambers of Commerce: Re-adapting internationalisation services amid regulatory challenges and global trade shifts (2008-2024)* **Jan Fernández Santín,** Internationalisation Advisor and project manager of the Enterprise Europe Network. Alumni ESCI-UPF, Spain
14.40-15.00	Discussion
FINAL SESSION	**DISCUSSION**
15.00 - 15.30	*The current situation of European chambers of commerce and the challenges they face in a changing world* **Xavier Coronas,** Secretary General of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Spain **Prof. Joaquim Molins,** Department of Political Science and Public Law, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
15.30 - 15.40	Summary of the Conference

Conference organizers:

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