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| **Press Release**  2025.09.25 | **European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK)**  Media Inquiry:  Yuri JANG | PR Team Leader | E: [yuri.jang@ecck.or.kr](mailto:yuri.jang@ecck.or.kr) l T: 02 6261 2715 |

**ECCK Holds Press Conference to Mark the Launch of the 2025 Regulatory Environment White Paper**

**September 25, 2025, Seoul** - The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) held a press conference on 25 September at the Korea Press Center to mark the publication of its *ECCK White Paper 2025*, which presents policy recommendations from European companies on Korea’s regulatory environment.

Drawing on the work of its industry-specific committees and cross-sectoral forums, the ECCK engages in ongoing discussions on regulatory improvement and communicates the views of European companies to the Korean government. The White Paper compiles the issues raised by all committees and forums. This year’s edition includes a total of 70 recommendations submitted by 15 committees and 2 forums. At the press conference, the Chairs of the Aerospace & Defence, Energy & Environment, Food, Healthcare, Passenger Vehicles and Beer, Wine & Spirits Committees presented their key recommendations and engaged in a Q&A session with the media.

To open the press conference, **Philippe van Hoof**, Chairperson of the ECCK, highlighted that while Korea holds significant potential as an attractive investment destination, a predictable regulatory environment and fair competitive conditions are essential to translating this potential into tangible investments.

In the following congratulatory remarks, **Walter van Hattum**, Minister Counsellor and Head of Trade Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, underscored the long-standing trust-based partnership between Europe and Korea, and reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to strengthening this partnership through openness, sustainability, and rules-based cooperation despite the shifting global landscape.

**Stefan Ernst**, President of the ECCK, added that this year’s White Paper reflects the sustained efforts and contributions of the industry, and expressed his hope that it will serve as a foundation for fostering a more competitive business environment between Korea and Europe.

**François Piolet**, Chair of the ECCK Aerospace & Defence Committee, stated,

"Europe and Korea have long maintained a strategic defence partnership grounded in mutual trust, and enhancing the transparency and predictability of the offset framework is a crucial step toward reinforcing sustainable and trusted cooperation.”

He added, “We hope this will allow Korea’s defence ecosystem to become more closely connected to global value chains and create new growth opportunities for Korean SMEs.”

**Hyun Seung Lee**, Chair of the ECCK Energy & Environment Committee, noted,

“This year’s White Paper compiles industry proposals addressing real challenges and pending issues arising from offshore wind project development in Korea. We hope that Korea, which already has a strong industrial base closely linked to offshore wind, will integrate related industries to create new added value — and, in doing so, play a pivotal role in achieving carbon neutrality, strengthening energy security, creating jobs, and driving economic growth.”

**Thomas Caso**, Chair of the ECCK Food Committee, urged the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to expand the scope of permitted natural flavours to align Korea with global standards, benefiting both consumers and the food industry. Additionally, he called for enhanced communication methods for on-site inspections by providing official English versions of inspection standards and sharing detailed inspection results with foreign food facilities to promote transparency.

**Ana-Maria Boie**, Chair of the ECCK Healthcare Committee, remarked, “The European healthcare industry continues to face challenges in Korea around timely access, regulatory predictability, and fair valuation of innovation. We urge the Korean government to accelerate fast-track access for life-saving therapies, modernize pricing frameworks, and reform Risk Sharing Agreements to ensure patients benefit from innovation and Korea remains a priority destination for global healthcare investment.”

**Andrew Hong-joong Kim**, Chair of the ECCK Passenger Vehicles Committee, recommended that the current criminal penalty framework for regulating average vehicle emissions be converted into an appropriate administrative sanction, in line with the principle of proportionality in economic criminal law, and expressed hope for a positive review from the government.

Lastly, **Frantz Hotton**, Vice-Chair of the ECCK Beer, Wine & Spirits Committee, says “The current Korean e-commerce policy, which excludes most imported liquor products and is combined with an outdated ad valorem tax system, restricts market dynamics and limits consumer choice. This has created market imbalances and encouraged tax avoidance through overseas direct purchases. Modern, science-based regulations are needed to ensure fair access for all licensed retailers. At the same time, the imported liquor industry will continue to do its utmost to foster a culture of responsible drinking and maintain transparent communication with consumers.”

Among the 70 recommendations, 20 are issues raised again this year — some of which have been continuously submitted over several years. Another 18 are follow-up proposals on matters previously accepted or partially accepted, calling for more complete institutional and regulatory implementation. The remaining 32 are new issues arising from the changing market environment, which the industry believes require proactive responses.

The ECCK will continue to represent European companies and actively engage in close dialogue and cooperation with various government ministries to contribute to improving the business environment in Korea.

**View of the ECCK White Paper 2025**

[**Category: White Paper - European Chamber of Commerce in Korea**](https://ecck.or.kr/publications/white-paper/)

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**About ECCK White Paper 2025**  
The 2025 ECCK White Paper covers 17 industry sectors (Aerospace & Defence, Automotive, Beer, Wine and Spirits, Chemicals, Cosmetics, Digital, Energy & Environment, Fashion & Retail, Food, Healthcare, HR & Compliance, Insurance, Intellectual Property Rights, Kitchen & Home Appliances, Marine Industry, Sustainability, and Taxation), presenting a total of 70 issues. The recommendations are based on the insights of over 200 experts from ECCK member companies and have been edited and produced by the ECCK Secretariat.

**About the ECCK**

The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) was established in 2012 to represent European companies operating in Korea. The ECCK provides its members with information on Korea’s regulatory environment and serves as a communication channel with regulatory bodies, representing the voice of European businesses in Korea. The ECCK currently represents more than 350 European and multinational companies, employing approximately 110,000 people.