



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"

SMEs welcome EU proposal to protect companies' bank accounts

UEAPME pleased about extension to SMEs, better and faster payback; calls on Parliament and Council to give green light

Brussels, 12 July 2010 – UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers' organisation, warmly welcomed the suggested changes to the legislation on bank deposit guarantees proposed by the European Commission today (Monday). Under the new rules, companies' bank accounts would be covered by default by deposit protection should their banks fail, with payback up to 100.000 EUR per bank account and within 7 days. According to UEAPME, which had repeatedly called for the extension of deposit guarantee schemes to SMEs, today's proposal has the potential to restore confidence in the banking system both for private households and companies, especially for the smaller. SMEs were hit as hard as private consumers by the current crisis, but prior to today's proposal they did not enjoy the same level of protection of their bank accounts in all the EU Member States, stressed UEAPME, which called on Parliament and Council to approve the Commission's proposal as soon as possible.

Economic and Fiscal Policy Director **Gerhard Huemer** offered the following comments:

"Today's proposal by the European Commission to extend deposit guarantee schemes to SMEs is a welcome relief at a time when confidence in the banking system is very low and companies seem unsure about the pace of the recovery. Crafts and SMEs were hit as hard as private households by the crisis, yet their deposits were covered only in a few Member States in case of bank failure. Today's proposal will ensure that coverage will apply to SMEs across the board, in all cases and in all countries. This will hopefully help in restoring trust in Europe's financial system. We call on the European Parliament and on the European Council to give the green light to Commissioner Barnier's proposal as soon as possible."

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EDITORS' NOTES: UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 85 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information: <http://www.ueapme.com/>

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