



“The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe”

SMEs welcome EC communication on a new industrial policy

Brussels, 28 October 2010 – UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers’ organisation, warmly welcomed the communication on “an integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era” published by the European Commission today (Thursday). The organisation appreciated the focus in the document on need to improve the framework conditions for the European industry and to make it competitive without resorting to protectionist measures. It also welcomed the attention dedicated to small businesses as actors of the new industrial policy, both as part of the supply chain and as service providers, as well as the Commission’s willingness to involve SMEs and their representatives in all the different proposals and initiatives set out in today’s document.

Secretary General **Andrea Benassi** offered the following comments:

“As rightly pointed out in today’s communication, Europe needs a strong, modern industrial base to underpin the recovery and re-start creating growth and jobs. An integrated strategy is a very sensible way forward to reach this goal. We welcome the focus on innovation and knowledge in today’s communication and the clear attention towards the needs of SMEs, both as actors in the supply chain and as service providers. The Commission rightly steered well clear of proposing any kind of protectionist measures in the text, which is another point that we particularly appreciate.”

“Today’s document puts the promotion of SMEs’ growth and internationalisation at the core of the EU integrated industrial policy. This is a welcome change of perspective, which coupled with the broad range of initiatives foreseen should really help in achieving the ambitious aims of the strategy to improve job creation and the manufacturing output of our industry.”

“The Commission seems to be willing to involve SMEs and their representative organisations both in its ‘competitiveness proofing’ exercise and in the follow-up to virtually all the initiatives announced today. We will watch carefully the implementation phase of today’s strategy to ensure that the problems facing SMEs are rightly tackled, and we hope that the European Commission will take our comments in due consideration. It would be a pity if such a promising set of initiatives would end up staying on paper or going in the wrong direction.”

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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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