



*"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"*

## **Almgren appointed Board Spokesperson after Hermans' resignation**

Brussels, 11 October 2011 – During a meeting of the Board of Directors yesterday (Monday), Loek Hermans resigned from his position of President of UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers' organisation. Mr Hermans cited his impossibility to continue with his mandate and perform his duties and plans. The Board of Directors acknowledged Mr Hermans' choice, thanked him for his engagement and agreed to nominate Vice President Gunilla Almgren as Spokesperson of the Board for the remainder of Mr Hermans' mandate, until 31 December 2012, to assure no gaps in leadership at UEAPME. This decision was unanimous and will have to be confirmed by the next General Assembly of the organisation on 28 November in Brussels.

Gunilla Almgren is an entrepreneur in the sanitary fittings industry. She presently serves as First Vice-President of the Board of Företagarna, the Swedish Federation of Private Enterprises, a position she has held since 2002. She also sits in the Board of several Swedish business-related organisations as well as private companies. At UEAPME, she serves as Policy Vice President for Sustainable Development.

On top of her professional engagements, Ms Almgren has also actively participated in several committees and working groups set up by the European Commission in the past years. She is also the representative of Företagarna in the SME Group at the Swedish Trade Council. Ms Almgren holds a Diploma in Business Administration from the IHM Business School and speaks English, French, German, Italian and Spanish in addition to her mother tongue.

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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 82 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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