



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"

EP vote on accounting for micro companies a reasonable compromise, say SMEs

Brussels, 13 December 2011 – UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers' organisation, welcomed today's vote at the European Parliament's plenary on the so-called "Lehne report" on accounting obligations for micro enterprises. MEPs rubber-stamped a common position with the Council that significantly simplifies accounting requirements for micro companies. According to the compromise, Member States can also exempt micro entities from publishing annual accounts, but accounting data will have to be drawn up, filed and made available on request. UEAPME was pleased with this solution, which puts an end to four years of squabbles over the text and is likely to reduce administrative obligations for micro entities while at the same time ensuring transparency. In fact, information drawn from accounts is crucial for national administrations, banks, suppliers and customers, stressed UEAPME, as well as for SMEs to get information about potential business relationships.

Secretary General **Andrea Benassi** commented as follows:

"Today's vote puts an end to four years of irritating squabbles over exempting micro companies from European accounting requirements, which have delayed for too long a serious and much needed debate on the simplification of the existing harmonised accounting rules for all companies. We have fought long and hard on this file and we are very satisfied with the compromise found, a significant simplification effort towards micro companies that simultaneously ensures the transparency that SMEs need."

"The original proposal by the European Commission to exempt micro companies from drawing up and publishing annual accounts was a blatant example of 'better regulation' gone wrong. The information drawn from accounts would have had to be collected by other means, so there would have been no serious cost reduction to speak of. Moreover, the Commission assimilated annual accounts to a disposable burden for small companies, while in fact they need accounts to access loans and public tenders at local, national and European level, to get information about potential business relationships and competitors as well as in their relations towards suppliers and clients, insurers, leasing companies and banks."

"Today's vote is a reasonable compromise, as it simplifies accounting requirements, thereby reducing the administrative charge for small companies, while ensuring that accounts are accessible and available upon request. We are very pleased that the Council and the Parliament were able to steer the file in this direction. Today's compromise, coupled with the upcoming revision of the Accounting Directives, is fully in line with our long standing demands to simplify the preparation of financial statements and to reduce the related administrative charges. This is very good news indeed for SMEs."

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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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