



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

## **General Assembly: Benassi's mandate ends, President and Directors to cover interim**

Brussels, 14 December 2012 – The General Assembly of UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers' organisation, met yesterday in Brussels. This was the last official meeting for Andrea Benassi, whose mandate as UEAPME Secretary General came to a close after a five-year term at the helm of the organisation. President Gunilla Almgren and the Directors of UEAPME will ensure the associations' running and representation until the ongoing selection process for a new Secretary General is completed, the General Assembly decided.

President **Gunilla Almgren** commented as follows:

*"We are extremely thankful to Andrea Benassi for his commitment towards SMEs and his dedication in the last five years, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. The selection procedures for a new Secretary General are well under way. Until this process is completed, I will take personal responsibility for the representation of UEAPME. I will do so alongside our Directors, who will also ensure the day-to-day operations of our Secretariat."*

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*

**EDITORS' NOTES:** UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 80 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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