



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

## **SMEs have mixed feelings on Energy Union Strategy**

*Good proposals on the promotion of energy efficiency, but less realistic on transport sector; superficial on the non ETS sectors*

Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – UEAPME, the European Craft and SME organisation, welcomes the Strategy for the Energy Union but warns of the minor focus on the non-ETS sectors, which are predominantly SME-based. The organisation is concerned with the lack of involvement of SME organisations in the setting up of measures for the non-ETS legislation at national level. On road transport, UEAPME advocates for a sustainability trend which allows SMEs of the sector to stay on the market without losing jobs. At the same time, it fears the shift to electro mobility will be expensive in the current conditions and thus impact negatively on the economic operators, in particular SMEs. On energy efficiency, UEAPME supports the use of Juncker's Plan for investments in the energy efficiency in buildings with financial and technical support of which SMEs will profit.

UEAPME warns of the Strategy's lack of emphasis on the non-ETS sectors. These sectors are predominantly SME-based and represent a very important share of the EU economy. A first piece of legislation on the non ETS-sectors entered into force in 2013 but implementation at national level is quite unclear. National governments have to involve SME organisations in drafting and implementing national climate policies and measures. Furthermore, SMEs have to be informed and become aware of the impacts these measures to limit emissions will have on them.

The strategy on road transport seems detached from reality, since it lacks any reference to keeping short-distance transport for commercial purposes – dominated by SMEs – and is indispensable in everyday life. Moreover, the trend towards sustainability in road transport, mainly consisting of SMEs, should not result in these companies closing down with loss of employment due to an increasing amount of taxes and charges. Measures in this sector should be structured in order to allow SMEs to stay on the market by reconverting their activities. UEAPME is also wary of the consequences the proposed decarbonisation of the transport system might have on the EU's competitiveness. The price of electricity remains high compared to the current oil prices and, electricity based mobility is therefore not a natural trend of the market.

On energy efficiency, UEAPME welcomes the proposal to use the Juncker Investment Plan to boost the energy efficiency in buildings. In this line, UEAPME Secretary General **Peter Faross** states *"The combination of technical and financial support is what UEAPME has been advocating for and is very positive. However, similar incentives should also be foreseen for SMEs outside the building sectors aiming to become more energy efficient and more sustainable."*

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

**EDITORS' NOTES:** UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing 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 please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](https://twitter.com/UEAPME) on Twitter.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Guido Lena, Sustainable Development Director, Tel. +32 (0)2 230 7599, Email: [g.lena@ueapme.com](mailto:g.lena@ueapme.com)  
Jenny Manin, Press and Communications Officer, Tel. +32 (0)496 520 329, Email: [pressoffice@ueapme.com](mailto:pressoffice@ueapme.com)