



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"



MEPs and Stakeholders Discuss the Future of Road Transport

Transport Policy Should be based on the "Think Small First" Principle

Brussels, 23rd April 2015 – Today, UEAPME (the European Crafts and SME organisation) and MEP Claudia Schmidt (Austria - EPP) jointly organised a business breakfast on "the future of road transport SMEs in the internal market" attended by MEPS and transport stakeholders. UEAPME Secretary General Peter Faross put forward the link between supporting job creation and economic growth and the need for greater investment in infrastructure. On her side, Mrs Schmidt called for harmonised and simplified regulation to tackle the differences still existing in Member States concerning social issues such as resting time, minimum wage, and cost of labour. Furthermore, she emphasised the need to improve the image of the profession and make it more attractive to young people.

UEAPME Secretary General Peter Faross focused on the existing link between supporting job creation and economic growth and underlined the "need for greater investment in infrastructure". Furthermore, he strongly emphasised that "putting burdens on road transport SMEs is counter-productive for jobs and growth."

UETR Secretary General Mr Lode Verkinderen (UEAPME transport member) added that "we have to concentrate on maintaining and improving infrastructure and we need more EU, not less EU. In history protectionism has always brought severe outcomes for Europe."

Finally, in this context, Mrfa Faross recalled the "need for the revival of the Small Business Act, which should become the yardstick for an effective SME policy included within the Commission's work program."

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EDITORS' NOTES:

- **About UEAPME:**

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.

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- **About MEP Schmidt:**

Claudia Schmidt is an Austrian Member of the European Parliament, elected for the legislative period 2014-2019. She's a full member of the Transport and Tourism committee as well as the Budgetary Control committee. She's a substitute member in the committee for Regional Development. For further information please visit <http://www.schmidt-claudia.eu/>

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