



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

## **EU needs stronger policy for small and medium sized enterprises**

Brussels, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Ahead of the European SME Assembly in Luxembourg on 19-20<sup>th</sup> November, UEAPME and BUSINESSEUROPE publish a video message and a joint statement calling for a renewed and strengthened EU policy for craft and SMEs.

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) would benefit from a revision of the EU SME policy framework in the following areas:

- better access to finance
- improved access to markets
- supporting entrepreneurship
- cutting unnecessary burdensome bureaucratic hurdles
- eliminating skills shortages

While supporting the European Commission's policy line to integrate SME issues into all EU policies, the Commission should rigorously respect its own smart regulation principles:

- "Think Small First" principle
- Principle of making a compulsory SME test in the impact assessment of any new EU policy initiative.

The basis for this European SME policy is the existing Small Business Act (SBA). **The SBA needs to be reviewed and revised to establish the future SME strategy of the European Union.**

Please find a **video message** of UEAPME Secretary General Peter Faross and BUSINESSEUROPE Director General Markus J. Beyrer [here](#)

The **joint statement** is available [here](#).

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**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](#) on Twitter.

BUSINESSEUROPE is Europe's employer and industry organisation representing the interests of 40 national industry and employer federations and their members in Europe.

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