



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"

European chemicals policy: SMEs need intensive support

Vienna, 10th March 2017 – At the two-day REACH regulation workshop, organised by UEAPME and the European Chemicals Agency ECHA, with the support of WKÖ (Austrian Federal Economic Chamber), SMEs and authorities discussed chemical legislation in view of the upcoming REACH registration deadline. The specific focus was how to maintain some chemicals on the market for longer.

The EU chemical regulation REACH only allows marketing with a valid registration. This, however, poses a big challenge for enterprises involved. **UEAPME President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller** highlighted that *"already now, many companies may start to think about giving up their business because of too high regulatory burdens. This is why small companies especially need as much support as only possible in this crucial phase."* Indeed, this event – that came out of the cooperation between the business sector and many European authorities – is a role model for a functioning social partnership at European level.



At the same time Ms Rabmer-Koller stipulated that *"more has to be done for SMEs in relation to chemical legislation. Once the REACH registration has ended, the game is not over. For example, the REACH authorisation is an even more resource intensive process. We simply need more hands-on possibilities for financial support."*

One of Ms Rabmer-Koller's utmost concern is that enterprises be able to equally use their official language. In that context, she underlined that *"the use of an official language is a fundamental EU right and it makes it easier to better identify regulatory requirements and risks. This is for example important when elaborating on critical legal interpretations. However, for me it is not only about saving costs, it is even more about being able to have simpler everyday assignments in the best suited language. This is important, so that very complex content is communicated correctly."*

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EDITORS' NOTES: UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing Crafts and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 64 member organisations covering about 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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