

# UEAPME Newsflash

## President Rabmer-Koller stresses SMEs' expectations for future of EU

In a [video message](#) for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller explains why SMEs have profited from European integration and from strong European institutions. This is especially true for the single market and the joint currency. Nevertheless, Europe can and has to do better and SMEs expect more efforts to improve its competitiveness and the business environment to encourage investment and innovation and to create jobs and growth. Therefore, Ms Rabmer-Koller welcomes the White Paper and the discussion about the future of Europe. However, she does not want to leave this debate to the governments alone. UEAPME will take its responsibility and will come forward with proposals which reflect the needs of EU Crafts and SMEs.

Contact: [Jenny Manin](#)



## Brexit negotiations: harm to SMEs must be minimised

Commenting on the official notification by the British government to leave the EU, President Ulrike Rabmer-Koller [stated](#) UEAPME's acceptance of the decision taken by the people and politicians in the United Kingdom. In order to minimise the negative impact on Europe's economy, growth, job creation and welfare, UEAPME requests a responsible approach towards SMEs. The negotiators have to bear in mind the Think Small First principle when clarifying the future relationship between the EU27 and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, UEAPME calls for efforts to avoid burdens resulting from new border arrangements as far as possible. Politicians have to be aware that Crafts and SMEs will be the ones to most suffer from such burdens. Thus, the negotiations have to be guided by the 'Think Small First' approach.

Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

## SME Envoys discuss SME Action Plan and REACH

The SME Envoys met in Zagreb to discuss, among other topics, the SME Action Plan and the cumulative costs of REACH on chemical companies. Secretary General Véronique Willems congratulated German SME Envoy Hepperle and the team on the work done on the SME Action Plan and positively welcomed the fact that several recommendations will also address key issues of traditional micro and small businesses. On REACH, Ms Willems stressed the importance of informing SMEs affected by the upcoming 2018 registration deadline.

Contact: [Véronique Willems](#)

## Secretary General Willems exchanges views with DG Energy

A UEAPME delegation, led by Secretary General Véronique Willems, met DG Energy Director General Dominique Ristori for an exchange of views. Mr Ristori stressed the great deal of opportunities the EC's last Energy Winter Package offers to different kinds of SMEs. He also emphasised that SMEs are important stakeholders for DG Energy and that they are taken into account from the very beginning of the process in its policy developments. Ms Willems seized the opportunity to point out the problematic impact on retailers of the recent conclusions of the trilogue on the revision of the Energy Labelling. Last but not least, she advocated for more support to facilitate SMEs' participation in the Ecodesign.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

## How do IFRS affect SME accounting?

At a [round table](#), UEAPME member organisation EFAA (European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs) presented their [study](#) on "The Trickle Down Effect: IFRS and the Accounting Treatment of SMEs". Commenting on the excellent study, Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx reminded the audience that UEAPME has always warned about this trickle-down effect. Indeed IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards), which have shown their limitations in the banking crisis, are too burdensome for SMEs. IFRS are exclusively conceived to give information to third parties, while SME accounting is first and foremost a management tool for the owner-manager. He insisted that SME impact assessments, and even micro-enterprise impact assessments, should be done when new standards are developed. He also advocated for developing standards and regulations with a bottom-up approach in line with the 'Think Small First' principle.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

### News from UEAPME Projects

## Kick-off event "Training SMEs on consumer law"

UEAPME, BEUC and EUROCHAMBRES held the official kick-off [event](#) of their joint project by organising a workshop on "Training SMEs on Consumer Law". The workshop was attended by around 65 people representing the consortium partners, the already selected lead trainers, member organisations, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx explained what the main difficulties for SMEs are with implementing marketing and consumer law and how these difficulties should be tackled. Furthermore, the training concept of the project was explained as well as the methodology for the "train the trainers" workshop to be organised at local level.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

## Georgian SMEs appreciate support by East Invest 2 project

In Georgia, in the framework of the East Invest 2 project, 32 SME representatives from the agri-food and food processing sectors attended an SME Academy and learnt about requirements, challenges but also possibilities for exporting to the EU. This coincided with the Georgian citizens' celebration of the introduction of the visa free regime for Georgia. The five courses of the academy were given by experts from European and Georgian business organisations. Similar events have been organised over the last weeks in Western and Eastern Ukraine and more are planned for Moldova, Armenia, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

Contact: [Doris Rabetge](#)

## Goodbye Mr Faross

UEAPME secretariat said goodbye to former Secretary General Peter Faross. Following his three-year mandate, which ended in December, Ms Faross supported Secretary General Véronique Willems in the first three months in her new post. The UEAPME team wish to thank him and wishes him good luck in his future entrepreneurial career.

### EVENTS AHEAD:

- EU Conference on Noise in Europe (24.04, contact [Guido Lena](#))
- REACH 2018 and beyond (27-28;04, Sofia, contact [Guido Lena](#))

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