

UEAPME Newsflash

Board discusses Social Fairness Package with Thyssen cabinet

The Board of Directors welcomed Inge Bernaerts (Head of Employment Commissioner Marianne Thyssen's cabinet) for an exchange on the Social Fairness Package. The three main objectives of the package are: closing formal coverage gaps, ensuring effective coverage, increasing transparency. The discussion mainly focussed on the concerns UEAPME has regarding the compulsory approach to social protection for self-employed. Additionally, the package needs an appropriate tailored offer (public or private), one that avoids unjustified increase of social protection contributions for self-employed, tackles rigid labour markets, reduces labour costs, and ensures a level playing field by balancing the power in B2B relations. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

SMEs' view on addressing the interface products and waste

UEAPME [replied](#) to the Commission's communication on options to address the interface between chemical, product and waste legislation. From the SMEs' point of view, products should not be banned without a comprehensive analysis regarding the impact on waste treatment and the overall economy. Such an analysis should also verify whether or not substances to be banned can be replaced. In any case, there should always be exceptions for specific uses which are important for the society and/or the economy. Moreover, UEAPME thinks the Commission should develop end of waste criteria for all relevant waste streams, in order to prevent different interpretations about the status of a material being considered as waste or not. The end of waste criteria should be developed one after the other based on the importance of a stream and the quantities of a stream.

Contact: [Guido Lena](#)

Enterprise Policy Committee debates the SME definition

The Enterprise Policy Committee, chaired by Vice-President Luca Crosetto, was devoted to the 2016 SME Performance Review and the revision of the SME definition. Both topics were introduced by representatives of the European Commission. Member organisations had the opportunity to discuss the results of the SME Report with the Commission and ask to be further consulted for the next one. Moreover, members shared small businesses' concerns regarding the announced revision of the SME Definition. UEAPME has already stated its opposition to revising the definition, which is still fit for purpose. Other topics on the agenda included the goods package, internal discussion on the future of COSME and an update on the SBS and Early Warning Europe projects.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

SME Envoys look into developing an OECD SME strategy

At the SME envoys' meeting in Copenhagen (DK), the Danish SME envoy presented the challenges of SME policy in Denmark and launched work on a report concerning barriers for SMEs in the single market. The OECD and European Commission presented a follow-up to the OECD SME Ministerial 2018 and discussed ways for closer cooperation in developing an OECD SME strategy. Different actions in the frame of the start-up and scale up initiative were presented and SME envoys also discussed the MFF post 2020. Finally, opportunities for SMEs in the new Industrial Policy were considered.

Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Rural development policy: SMEs organisations must play vital role

At a conference on Financing Rural Development and a meeting of the LEADER Group, the Commission pointed out that more than a third of the 3,300 local cooperative actions were managed by SME organisations and that SMEs are involved in more than two-thirds of them. Regional Policy Senior Advisor Hubert Delorme asked the Commission to guarantee the involvement of SME organisations in the definition of operational measures and their access to support for capacity building. Local cooperative actions should become one of the main tools for implementing future post-2020 priorities in rural areas: bio-economy, digitalisation, employment, integration, social welfare, and support for economic activities.

Contact: [Hubert Delorme](#)

----- News from UEAPME Sector Fora -----

Cosmetics and the implications for SMEs

At the meeting of the Commission's Expert Working Group on Cosmetics Products, the main topic was the ongoing implementation of the cosmetics regulation, with specific regard to the catalogue of nanomaterials as well as the draft manual for borderline products. Additional subjects were CMR (carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction) substances, mineral oils, and endocrine disruptors in relation to the Cosmetics Regulation. Regarding mineral oils, SMEs are particularly concerned regarding their safe use in lip balms at low concentration levels.

Contact: [Birte Day](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- [AECM & UEAPME event on SME financing: EU financial instruments post 2020 \(19.04, contact \[Gerhard Huemer\]\(#\)\)](#)

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