



*“The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe”*

## **Product safety: new regulation more in line with our needs, say SMEs**

*UEAPME pleased with clauses on proportionate penalties and with deleted notification requirements for “isolated cases”*

Brussels, 13 February 2013 – UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers’ organisation, welcomed the new regulation on general product safety unveiled by the European Commission today. According to UEAPME, the text better takes the needs of small and medium-sized companies into account, while at the same time ensuring the safety of non-food consumer products placed on the EU market. In particular, the association was pleased by the new clauses on proportionate penalties for SMEs. It also welcomed the new treatment of “isolated cases”, i.e. situations when a problem with one or very few samples of a product is detected, virtually always due to misuse rather than to an inherent dangerous defect, design or risk. As repeatedly requested by UEAPME, today’s rules eliminate notification duties to competent authorities for isolated cases, reducing red tape for SME retailers.

Enterprise Policy Director **Luc Hendrickx** commented as follows:

*“We are very pleased by the regulation on general product safety presented today by the Commission, and we are thankful to Vice President Tajani for his support in this respect. At first glance, the new rules have the potential to further increase the safety of non-food consumer products on the EU market, while at the same time taking into account the needs of SMEs, and in particular of small retailers. This is particularly true for the new clauses on penalties and isolated cases.”*

*“Penalties will have to be proportionate, also in relation to the size and situation of the company at hand. On isolated cases, the Commission has thankfully listened to our pleas. When a problem is detected only with one or very few samples, our experience shows that in virtually all cases this is due to a misuse by the consumer rather than to an inherent defect of the product. A fully fledged notification procedure to the competent authorities is clearly overkill in these cases. Today’s regulation goes exactly in this direction, by stating that isolated cases where the risk has been fully controlled and cannot endanger health and safety do not require notification. This shows that it is indeed possible to strengthen EU rules without necessarily creating extra burdens for private enterprises in general and for small companies in particular.”*

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**EDITORS’ NOTES:** UEAPME is the employers’ organisation representing exclusively 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: <http://www.ueapme.com/>

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