

# Position Paper

## **UEAPME<sup>1</sup> comments on the prolongation of the General Block Exemption Regulation on State aid (EC) No 800/2008 (HT.3365 – SAM – GBER review)**

UEAPME, the European Association for Crafts and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises representing more than 10 million SMEs at European level, welcomes the proposal of the European Commission to prolong the period of application of the current General Block Exemption Regulation on State aid.

Most of State aid provided to SMEs is currently covered by the GBER and is provided under State aid schemes. In order to ensure continuity and as regards support instruments for SMEs and legal certainty for State aid providers and recipients, such a prolongation is necessary. UEAPME specifically welcomes the provision that there will be no need for sending new summary information about schemes for the prolonged period, if there is no substantive amendment made.

However, UEAPME wants to ask the Commission to rethink the proposed period of prolongation. Due to the wide range of coverage of the GBER and the complexity of many provision of the regulation, many State aid providers will need time to adapt their instrument to a new regulation. This could mean that even if the Commission decides about a new GBER before summer 2014, Member States and State aid providers will have difficulties to adapt their measures to the new regulations.

**Therefore, UEAPME asks the European Commission to prolong the current GBER until the end of 2014 to allow Member States and State aid providers the needed time to adapt to the new rules and to ensure a smooth migration to the new GBER in 2014.**

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<sup>1</sup> UEAPME subscribes to the European Commission's Register of Interest Representatives and to the related code of conduct as requested by the European Transparency Initiative. Our ID number is [55820581197-35](#).