

UEAPME Newsflash

Transfer of business: how to facilitate this process?

Secretary General Peter Faross spoke at the European SME Transfer Summit to “take stock of progress and prepare for the challenges ahead”. Indeed, business transfers have changed and are no longer an obvious family transaction; the framework hence needs to be improved as one third of business failures occur in the context of a business transfer. Mr Faross stated that these transfers are often not sufficiently planned and therefore emphasised the three main problems SMEs face in the context of transfer of business: finding a successor, assessing the value of the enterprise, and accessing finance. On the positive side, it is important to note that survival rate following a transfer is 97% after five years, whereas the rate is only 68% for a newly created enterprise. Awareness raising amongst “aging” entrepreneurs and professional advice are also essential to handling the challenge of business transfer. Contact: [Peter Faross](#)

Long-term finance: positive on regulation, not enough for SMEs

The European Commission presented its communication on long-term financing, in response to the results of last year's green paper consultation and aiming at guiding the way forward to improve long-term financing for SMEs and infrastructure investments. UEAPME [welcomed](#) several improvements regarding future financial market regulations, which will make it more attractive to invest long-term in real economy. The small companies in Europe are however quite disappointed by the weak proposals made to improve SMEs' access to finance. The strong focus on fast growing start-ups especially – representing less than 1% of SMEs – and a large number of altogether vague announcements for future studies and consultations do not fulfil the expectations of millions of SMEs urgently needing access to finance in order to accomplish their investments plans and make a recovery possible. Contact: [Gerhard Huemer](#)

Eurofound proves UEAPME represents 52% EU employers

The [Eurofound](#) study on representativeness of the cross-industry EU social partners has just been [published](#). UEAPME, through national members, affiliates the highest number of employers – at least 52%, whereas BUSINESSEUROPE affiliates 32% and CEEP 2%. All three are to be regarded as the most important EU-wide employers' representatives at cross-industry level. Through their national affiliated members they organise 85% of firms, employing 89% of workers. The study includes an overview report, 28 national reports and an executive summary to be translated into all 24 EU official languages and it also analyses the national organisations having a role in industrial relations systems. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

TTIP: SMEs must be taken into account and better informed

In the context of the Transatlantic [Conference](#) 2014 organised by AmCham EU on “TTIP revealed: Fact and fiction”, Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx spoke this week in a panel dealing with the societal benefits of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Mr Hendrickx stressed that the TTIP agreement will certainly help SMEs expand their business, but also warned that – in the SME Chapter – the impact on non-internationally active SMEs and regulated professions should be assessed and taken into account. He then insisted on the need for even more transparency and timely information about the negotiations as well as for a UEAPME seat in the European Commission's Advisory Committee. Contact: [Sabine Erkens](#)

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

Food sustainability and less waste: SME needs put forward

UEAPME adopted its [position paper](#) on food sustainability, underlining the relevance on the economic, social and environmental aspects. UEAPME is in favour of integrating every actor of the food chain, linking science and food enterprises and recognising traditional methods of food production. The question of sustainable food and waste management in food is high on the DG Environment agenda. Hence the work on the current EC communication is narrowing down from an overall approach for sustainable food to food waste only, on which UEAPME will try to produce further specific input, according to members' contributions, in the next few weeks. Contact: [Birte Day](#)

EVENTS AHEAD:

- 2nd Stakeholder Forum of the EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) (07.04, contact [Guido Lena](#))
- EU social partner conference on the implementation of 2010 autonomous framework on Inclusive Labour Markets (09.04, contact [Helen Hoffmann](#))
- 'Toolkit for gender equality in practice' (07.05, contact [Helen Hoffmann](#))

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UEAPME Newsflash
Compiled by: [Jenny Manin](#)
Press and communications officer
Phone: +32 2 230 7599
Mobile: +32 496 520 329