



"The voice of crafts and SMEs in Europe"

SMEs present energy policy concerns ahead of EU Summit

Renewables, energy efficiency and SME competitiveness are key elements of the future 2030 framework

Brussels 25th June 2014 – Ahead of the June European Council meeting where EU leaders will take stock of progress regarding the 2030 Climate and Energy framework, UEAPME - the European Craft and SME association – presented the concerns of SMEs on this issue. In the position paper¹, the organisation called on Member States to agree on a realistic GHG emission reduction target at EU level coupled with sound energy efficiency and renewable energy policies. UEAPME also highlighted the need to strike the right balance between climate concerns and competitiveness of the EU economy. Likewise, the paper condemns the high energy costs SMEs are confronted with and calls for no further increases in energy prices.

UEAPME's paper calls for the 2030 target on greenhouse gas emission reduction to be economically feasible and realistically reachable. In this line, UEAPME believes that by enhancing the SME stance in renewable energy and energy efficiency policies the GHG target could be more easily attained. In the field of energy efficiency, SMEs – be it users, service-providers or manufacturers – have to benefit from the right framework conditions (i.e. tailored technical assistance, financial incentives, access to markets, etc.) to be able to improve their energy efficiency.

Regarding Renewable Energy Sources (RES), the organisation supports its further expansion. UEAPME emphasises that RES are an important economic sector for SMEs, they can significantly contribute to the development of alternative decentralised systems of energy production and distribution. However, the organisation denounces the fact that, so far, SMEs have had to bear the costs of this expansion. Along these lines, UEAPME **Secretary General Peter Faross** highlights that *"in order for the RES uptake to arise at the least possible cost for SMEs, we need coordinated support schemes which do not penalise SME."*

Furthermore, the organisation demands that Member States be sensible and not endanger Europe's industrial base. *"The EU must be a stable business and investment location where SMEs enjoy the right conditions for growth and job creation"* pointed out Peter Faross. Similarly, the high costs of energy are not only impacting negatively on energy intensive industries but are also a competitive drawback for SMEs. In this respect, Peter Faross stated *"In order to prevent energy prices from rising, the internal energy market needs to be urgently implemented and further increases in taxes and levies avoided"*.

UEAPME calls on the European Council to consider the current economic situation and decide upon a climate and energy package which takes into account the climate challenges while contributing to the EU's re-industrialisation with SMEs as front-runners.

1) http://www.ueapme.com/IMG/pdf/UEAPME_PP_2030_framework_energy_climate_2014.pdf

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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 please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](https://twitter.com/UEAPME) on Twitter.

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